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Daily Report

East Asia

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Spratly Claimants Watching Developments
HK151016 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT
15 Mar 88

[By Jeff Wagner]

[Text] Hong Kong, March 15 (AFP)—Vietnam Tuesday rejected Chinese charges that it started a naval clash in the Spratly Islands and pledged to defend its territory, as the Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan closely watched the increasingly tense situation.

All five countries wholly or partly claim the chain of islands and reefs in the South China Sea where Chinese and Vietnamese ships clashed Monday.

Hanoi and Beijing accused each other Monday of firing first and forcing their navy to respond. It was their first armed clash in the archipelago and followed China's occupation of two reefs in the area in January and February.

Vietnam, which has occupied several islands since 1974, Tuesday rejected China's formal protest over the incident which it said "went against the common aspiration of the Vietnamese and Chinese people to live in friendship."

The "Vietnamese people and government are determined to take all measures they consider necessary to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country," it said in a note to the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi.

Taiwan's troops on Tai Ping Island "are ordered to be on full alert and monitor the situation closely," a defense ministry spokesman in Taipei said.

Tai Ping is the largest of the 500 islands scattered over 600 kilometers (375 miles), from north to south, between the Philippines, Vietnam and Borneo.

Taiwan claims sovereignty over the whole chain as the Republic of China.

The Philippines, which has armed forces on eight islands in the chain, declined official comment Tuesday, but a senior foreign department official in Manila said the government hoped the issue "was not settled by violent means."

The official said the marines stationed on the islands claimed by Manila since 1956 were "there to defend" them, but he stressed that the Philippines Manila [as received] had understandings with other Spratly claimants to settle any dispute peacefully.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Spratlys could be mentioned in bilateral talks during President Corazon Aquino's visit to China next month, "but it's not going to be an issue."

A controversial bill incorporating the eight Philippine-occupied islands which Manila calls Kalayaan, or Freedoland, has been bogged down at committee level in the senate.

The bill was certified to the Senate by Mrs. Aquino in December as an effort to redefine the national territory to exclude Sabah, a Malaysian state claimed by a southern Philippine Moslem sultanate.

Malaysia, which claims the islands that lie within its continental shelf, has not officially commented on the latest incident but had called for calm last month as tension mounted between China and Vietnam.

Malaysia landed 20 troops on Layang-Layang Atoll in September 1983.

The Spratlys, which lie about 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) south of China, occupy a strategically-important position between the Soviet base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam, 450 kilometers (280 miles) to the west, and the Philippines, where the United States has bases, 310 kilometers (190 miles) to the east.

The islands straddle the vital Malacca Strait, plied by 1,000 to 1,500 vessels a day, according to Malaysian maritime sources.

They are also coveted for their economic potential. Oil apparently carpets the seabed and the zone could be rich in other minerals.

Japan

Sato Says U.S. Payment Request 'Unbecoming'

OW170821 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato criticized the United States Thursday for demanding compensation for any delay in liberalizing Japanese imports of beef and oranges.

Sato told a House of Councillors Budget committee session that he is extremely displeased with the U.S. request which he said is unbecoming of an ally.

The farm minister confirmed that deputy U.S. trade negotiator Michael Smith brought up the compensation request during a meeting in Washington Tuesday and Wednesday with Hideo Maki, director of his ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau.

Japan has continued to ask the United States to come to the negotiating table over the beef and citrus trade issue, he said.

If (the United States) is a friendly country, it should not resort to retaliatory or compensatory action but come to the table, he said.

Sato, replying to Komeito questioner Junro Oikawa, commented on another American request for liberalizing rice imports and said Japan will not free its rice trade from official regulations.

A current agreement on beef and citrus import quotas is due to expire on March 31. The United States has refused to open talks on a new agreement unless Japan sets a clear timetable for liberalizing imports.

Ministry Expresses 'Concern'

OW170327 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Officials at Japan's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry expressed serious concern Thursday about U.S. moves to seek compensation from Japan for any delay in liberalizing Japanese imports of beef and oranges.

A ministry official said such moves show the U.S. is adamant in its demand for the total removal of Japan's import restrictions on beef and oranges.

But a feeling of resentment is spreading among farmers and officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who feel that the U.S. demand for compensation is extremely irrational as the U.S. itself controls beef imports under its domestic laws and Japan has steadily increased its imports in the past several years.

Details of the U.S. request for compensation are not yet known, but some Agriculture Ministry officials said the ministry's present system of controlling beef imports through its administrative channels may have to be reviewed.

Japan agreed to modify the system when it signed a bilateral farm trade agreement with the U.S. four years ago. The current agreement expires at the end of March.

1988 Import Quotas on 7 Farm Products Set

OW170557 Tokyo KYODO in English 0450 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Japan set import quotas for fiscal 1988 Thursday [17 March] on seven farm products including natural cheese, malt, Indian corn and oats.

The quotas for the year starting April 1 were recommended by a subcommittee of the Tariff Council, an advisory body to Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, government officials said.

The fiscal 1988 import quota are generally greater than the previous year's levels reflecting increased demand.

The new quotas are as follows: natural cheese for processing 36,900 metric tons (35,700 tons in fiscal 1987), oats for feed 71,200 tons (70,900 tons), Indian corn 3,574,800 tons (3,378,700 tons), malt for whiskey and beer 601,000 tons (571,600 tons), molasses for alcohol 94,600 tons (116,900 tons), calves 25,000 head (unchanged), and evaporated cocoa 16,200 tons (none).

Envoy To Visit U.S. on Construction Issue

OW170445 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO — Japan is planning to send Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Ichiro Ozawa to the United States in order to settle a dispute over U.S. access to the Japanese construction market, government sources said Thursday [17 March].

It has not been decided, however, when Ozawa, deputy chief of staff for Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, will leave for Washington.

The government hopes to settle the rift by the end of this month, the sources said.

Takeshita's foreign policy adviser Michihiko Kunihiro may leave for the U.S. soon to prepare for Ozawa's visit, they said.

Government spokesman Keizo Obuchi said that the government hopes to reopen bilateral talks on the issue next week.

Referring to a U.S. Government decision to postpone a recommendation that President Ronald Reagan impose retaliatory sanctions against Japan for its delay in opening up its construction market, the chief cabinet secretary told reporters that it called for negotiations in order to reach a final agreement.

Obuchi said the government hopes an agreement can be reached through high-level talks.

Uno Discusses Position on Panama Recognition
OW170850 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Excerpt] At today's House of Councillors Budget Committee session, Foreign Minister Uno showed a prudent position on the issue of recognizing the new government in Panama, which is now thrown into confusion, on the grounds that the United States has imposed sanctions against the new regime.

At this morning's debate, Komeito's Junro Oikawa asked a question about the Panamanian situation. He asked the following question: Political and economic confusion is now continuing in Panama. How is Japan going to cope with this situation? What is its position with regard to the recognition of the government?

In response, Foreign Minister Uno said: General Noriega is now in control of Panama. However, the United States has imposed economic sanctions against the country, saying that the general is engaged in drug trafficking which is feared to adversely affect the United States and Central and South America. Should Japan recognize his government or not? Since the United States has been imposing sanctions in view of the seriousness of the drug issue for mankind, Japan would like to watch future developments with prudence.

He thus indicated a prudent position regarding the issue of recognizing the new government in Panama. [passage omitted]

Toyota To Purchase U.S. Cray Supercomputer
OW170457 Tokyo KYODO in English 0357 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. said Thursday it has decided to purchase a Cray X-MP/18 supercomputer, making it the first Japanese automobile manufacturer to buy a second supercomputer.

The new supercomputer, which is manufactured by Minneapolis-based Cray Research Inc. of the U.S., will be used in Toyota's product development program analyzing advanced vehicle structures, the company said.

The Cray supercomputer, which is more powerful than the company's present Japanese-made supercomputer, will cost approximately 8 million dollars.

Installation is scheduled for September of this year, Toyota said.

Takeshita Receives Bulgaria's Todorov
OW150815 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Stanko Todorov, chairman of Bulgaria's National Assembly, agreed Tuesday that Japan and Bulgaria should maintain close ties, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Todorov, who was Bulgarian premier from 1971-81, said the highest priority is being given to relations with Japan over its diplomatic ties with other capitalist countries.

The chairman, who led an eight-member delegation which includes five National Assembly members, said he hopes bilateral relations will be promoted further in every sphere.

The delegation met with Takeshita for 20 minutes at the Diet after attending a session of the upper house's budget committee.

Todorov said his country is carrying out economic reforms such as allowing joint ventures with Western countries.

He also called for Japan's participation in joint ventures and said Bulgaria hopes to conclude accords with Japan to guarantee investment and to avoid double taxation.

Takeshita told Todorov his proposal was very helpful.

Todorov, who delivered Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov's personal letter to Takeshita, said he regretted that then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone dropped Bulgaria in his tour to East European countries last year and invited Takeshita to make a visit to his country.

Takeshita said he would like to visit Bulgaria if he has the opportunity.

The delegation arrived here Monday on a weeklong visit at the invitation of Masaaki Fujita, president of the House of Councillors.

The delegation paid courtesy visits on Fujita and Kenzaburo Hara, speaker of the House Representatives, on Tuesday morning.

Todorov will meet Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno later Tuesday afternoon and International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura on Wednesday.

The delegation is also scheduled to visit Ikoma in Nara Prefecture, Osaka and Hiroshima before leaving Japan on March 20.

Official Cited on 'Cities' War, Afghanistan
OW171157 Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Japan supports a United Nations Security Council demand that Iran and Iraq immediately halt their "war of the cities," a top-level Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said Japan calls on Tehran and Baghdad to join in new peace talks to be held by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar with positive attitudes.

The Security Council issued a statement Wednesday requiring the secretary general to resume his mediation efforts for a cease-fire in the seven-year-old war and to report back to the council within three weeks on the results of his talks with the foreign ministers or other envoys of the two sides.

The statement reflected international consensus longing for peace, the official said.

On the Afghanistan issue, the official said Japan endorsed Pakistan's demand that Kabul set up an interim government to replace the current Soviet-backed regime.

The early establishment of such a government agreed by all parties concerned is needed to create environment to ensure the safe return of estimated 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the official said.

In the latest round of their indirect talks in Geneva, which began on March 2, Pakistan and Afghanistan failed to meet a Moscow-set March 15 deadline to work out plans for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Fuzhou Trade Mission Arrives in Osaka
OW171205 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Osaka, March 17 KYODO—A Chinese trade mission from Fuzhou City, Fujian Province, arrived in Osaka on Thursday.

The dispatch of the trade mission is in line with Fuzhou's recently launched policy to seek foreign investment, city officials said.

Invited by the Japan-Fujian Economy and Trade Association of Kobe, the mission will visit a Kobe steel plant in connection with Fuzhou's machinery industry development plan, they said.

The six-member mission is led by Fuzhou's Deputy Mayor Ming Min.

Tamura Leaves for Trade Meeting in FRG
OW170519 Tokyo KYODO in English 0509 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura left for West Germany Thursday [17 March] to attend a three-day meeting on world trade opening in Constance Saturday.

Participating in the meeting, hosted by the West German Economics Ministry, will be trade ministers from 29 countries.

Main topics include a review of progress in the current Uruguay round of talks for freer world trade, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and preparations for a GATT ministerial meeting in December, Tamura said earlier this week.

Tamura will return home Monday, aides said.

Report Notes 4.2 Percent Growth in 1987
OW170827 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—The Japanese economy grew at an inflation-adjusted annual rate of 7.0 percent in the final three months of 1987, closing the year with a 4.2 percent growth rate against 2.4 percent in 1986, the government reported Thursday.

The report by the Economic Planning Agency showed gross national product (GNP)—the nation's total output of goods and services—expanded 1.7 percent in the fourth quarter compared with the third quarter.

Pacing the fourth-quarter growth were housing construction and private capital spending, EPA officials said.

The GNP will grow more than 4 percent in fiscal 1987 even if it levels off in the year's closing three months ending March 31, they added.

Domestic Demand Credited
OW170913 Tokyo KYODO in English 0911 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Brisk domestic demand pushed up the growth rate of Japan's gross national product (GNP) by 1.7 percent in real terms in the fourth quarter of 1987 from the preceding quarter, allowing the economy to close the year with a healthy 4.2 percent annual growth rate, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Thursday.

The annual growth rate followed a 2.4 percent rise the previous year when the Japanese economy was eroded by the yen's appreciation. This showed the economy is entering an expansionary phase, the preliminary report said.

The GNP is likely to grow more than 4 percent in fiscal 1987, exceeding the government growth target of 3.7 percent, even if it levels off in the final closing three months of the fiscal year, which ends March 31, EPA officials said.

The 1.7 percent quarterly GNP growth, which means an annual rate of 7.0 percent, resulted from a 2.4 percent rise in domestic demand and a 0.7 percent drop in external demand, the report said. The GNP shows the nation's total output of goods and services.

Domestic demand had been increasing its quarterly contribution to overall GNP growth since the fourth quarter of 1986, with percentage point increases of 0.6, 1.0, 1.2, 1.8 and 2.4 over that period, the officials said.

Private housing starts, public works spending and corporate investment in plant and equipment showed sharp quarter-on-quarter rises of 12.5 percent, 6.6 percent and 4.1 percent respectively in the October-December period due to economic expansion spurred by the implementation of a 6 trillion yen package aimed at stimulating the economy, the officials said.

In contrast, exports declined 1.7 percent in the period from the previous quarter owing to sluggish shipments of such key products as autos and steel. But imports remained steady, scoring a quarterly rise of 2.3 percent.

A senior EPA official said the Japanese economy had been achieving a favorable performance, although a bit faster than expected, with no fears of inflation, an improvement in the external imbalance and a steady growth of domestic demand.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the economy is expected to enter a phase of continued expansion in and after fiscal 1988.

The 4.2 percent rise took the GNP for 1987 to 311.54 trillion yen in real terms, while the nominal GNP posted a 4.1 percent annual advance, the officials said.

The difference in the real and nominal GNP was attributed to a 0.2 percent decline in a deflator, an overall price index, the official said.

It was the first time since 1958 that the deflator had recorded an annual fall. It arose from a fall in the value of imported goods, stemming from the yen's appreciation and lower prices of primary commodities, the EPA officials said.

On a dollar basis, the per-capita Japanese GNP increased 20.3 percent to 19,642 dollars in 1987, topping the U.S. per-capita GNP of 18,403 dollars, the officials said. This was due chiefly to the yen's appreciation.

The yen averaged 144.62 yen to the dollar during the year, up 14.2 percent from the previous year, they said.

The report said the sustained increase in domestic demand was attributable to increased earnings by salaried workers who did more overtime work.

Takeshita Denounces Threat Against Nakasone

OW161457 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT
16 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Wednesday denounced an unidentified group which threatened on Monday to assassinate his predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Takeshita told a House of Councillors Budget Committee session that such intimidation cannot be allowed in a modern society in which freedom of speech is guaranteed.

Members of the so-called "Sekihotai," sent a threatening letter to Nakasone saying "we are again punishing ASAHI SHIMBUN today ... Next will be your turn."

A high-level police official, replying to an opposition question in the same session, said the police suspect the same group of having planted a timebomb in the parking lot of the ASAHI SHIMBUN newspaper's Shizuoka Bureau on Saturday.

Police are making every effort to apprehend the group, which the official said seeks to undermine democracy.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi told reporters that the government is instructing police to tighten security measures for Nakasone and his family.

Obuchi said the Sekihotai's action poses a major challenge to democracy which the government will fight.

Government Shifts on National Flag, Anthem

OW160057 Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT
15 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—The government told the Diet Tuesday that the "Hinomaru" rising sun flag is Japan's national flag "by customary law."

Osamu Mimura, director of the Cabinet Legislative Bureau, also said that the Japanese people "are sure" that "Kimigayo" (imperial reign) is the national anthem.

Mimura, replying to a Communist questioner at a session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, said, however, there are no clear legal provisions designating the two as the national flag and anthem.

Mimura's position represented a slight shift from the previous government position that the Hinomaru and Kimigayo are treated as national flag and anthem as a matter of "national custom."

There are voices of opposition among some quarters to the hoisting of the rising sun flag and to the singing of the *Kimigayo* song, both of which, they say, are linked to memories of a militarist Japan.

Defense Agency Chief on 'Defensive' Carriers
*OW111431 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT
11 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Tsutomu Kawara told the Diet Friday that Japan is allowed under its Constitution to possess defensive lightweight aircraft carriers.

Kawara made the remark at a session of the Upper House's Budget Committee in response to a question from Wataru Kubo, a member of the No 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party.

The Defense Agency chief, a state minister, said Japan is not allowed to possess attack aircraft carriers under Japan's defense-only policy but is allowed to possess lightweight aircraft carriers for purposes of defending the national interest.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told the same session Japan has no plans to possess attack aircraft carriers.

Seiki Nishihiro, director of the agency's Defense Policy Bureau, said that around 1965 the Defense Agency considered acquiring an aircraft carrier carrying antisubmarine helicopters but has no plan at present to possess such a carrier.

Nishihiro said Japan is theoretically allowed to possess defensive antisubmarine helicopter carriers.

Nishihiro said Japan is not allowed to possess ICBMs, attack aircraft carriers or other weapons which could strike destructive blows at other countries.

Under the war-renouncing constitution, Japan's Self-Defense Forces have not had such strategic weapons as aircraft carriers and long-range bombers.

Partly under pressures from Washington to spend more on defense, the government has increased defense budgets annually over the past decade, scrapping in 1986 a 1976 cabinet decision to hold defense spending to below one percent of gross national product (GNP).

The fiscal 1988 budget puts defense outlays at 3,700.3 billion yen, which represents a 5.2 percent advance from fiscal 1987 and is equal to 1.013 percent of the projected GNP.

The government has repeatedly said that Japan will never become a major military power.

'Ultra-Modern' Destroyer To Be Commissioned
*OW171211 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Sasebo, Nagasaki Pref., March 17 KYODO — The Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) will commission a 3,500-ton ultramodern sophisticated destroyer for the Sasebo-based Escort Flotilla 2 next Tuesday in its effort to improve the MSDF's antisubmarine capability, according to informed sources here.

The destroyer "Asagiri", manned by a crew of 220, will be the first of eight Kiri-type destroyers which Japan plans to deploy until 1991.

The destroyers will have SH-60J antisubmarine helicopters and be equipped with sophisticated warfare information system devices, the sources said.

The deployment of the "Asagiri" follows partial repair work near the rear mast after a design fault there was discovered during test cruising last autumn. The error had caused overheating of ESM electronic warfare equipment near the funnel, the sources said.

The 3,050-ton destroyer "Setoyuki", now part of the Escort Flotilla 2, will be recommissioned to the escort division 45 of the Maizuru-based escort flotilla 3.

Satellite Antenna System Restored
*OW151041 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT
15 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—The antenna control system of the communications satellite Sakura 3A, launched February 29, broke down last Friday, but was brought back to order later with the help of a back-up system, the National Space Development Agency (NASDA) said Tuesday.

The system, which is used to keep the antenna rotating in a direction opposite to the rotation of the satellite, is the first of its kind made in Japan, NASDA said.

A faulty safety circuit, coupled with a power surge, was understood to have caused the problem, it said.

The satellite, placed into an interim stationary orbit some 35,800 kilometers over the equator on Monday, will be moved to a stationary orbit in mid-May, NASDA said.

Mongolia

Party Secretaries Gather in Ulaanbaatar
*OW170505 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1444 GMT 15 Mar 88*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 15 Mar (MONTSAME)—Yordan Yotov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) Central Committee;

Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee; Lenard Pal, secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee; Dao Duy Tung, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPV Central Committee; Kurt Hager, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee; Yolanda Ferrer Gomez, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo; Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP Central Committee; Jan Glowczyk, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Polish United Workers Party Central Committee; Constantin Mitea, secretary of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee; and Josef Havlin, secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee, arrived in Ulaanbaatar today to take part in the conference of secretaries of central committees of communist and workers parties of the socialist countries for ideological affairs.

On invitation, A.M. Subbotin, chief editor of the journal **PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM**, also arrived to take part in the conference.

The representatives of the fraternal parties were met at Bayant-Uhaa Airport by T. Namsray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MPRP Central Committee; T. Balhaajab, secretary of the MPRP Central Committee; chiefs of MPRP Central Committee Departments, and other officials, as well as ambassadors and diplomatic personnel from the embassies of the fraternal countries.

Conference Opens

OW170826 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1440 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 16 Mar (MONTSAME)—A conference of secretaries of the central committees of the communist and workers parties of the socialist countries on ideological issues opened in Ulaanbaatar today.

Participating in the conference are representatives of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the CPV, the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Communist Party of Cuba, the MPRP, the LPRP, the Polish United Workers Party, the Romanian Communist Party, the CPSU, and the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

Tserendashiyn Namsray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MPRP Central Committee, opened the conference with a brief speech.

The conference participants will discuss the question of a new political thinking and the tasks of the ideological work of the parties at the contemporary stage.

Further on Visit by USSR's Yakovlev

Signs Cooperation Document

OW170541 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1455 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 15 Mar (MONTSAME)—T. Namsray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MPRP Central Committee, and A.N. Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, have signed a program here for deepening cooperation between the MPRP and CPSU in the spheres of ideology, culture, science, and education.

The program comprises a series of questions relating to the exchange of experience in ideological work, cooperation in joint elaboration of current theoretical problems, and for improving the quality and effectiveness of political and economic education and all ideological training work directed at accelerating social and economic development and perfecting the political system and all facets of public life in the MPR and USSR, which was proposed by the 19th MPRP Congress and the 27th CPSU Congress.

The program outlines extensive measures for further deepening and improving the cooperation between our two parties and countries in the spheres of ideology, science, culture, and education.

The signing of the document was attended by Comrades J. Batmonh, B. Dejid, D. Molomjamts, P. Damdin, and T. Balhaajab; L. Kinchin, C. Tumendelger, and G. Dashdzebeg, chiefs of MPRP Central Committee departments; as well as V.N. Sevruk, G.S. Ostromov, V.V. Ryabov, and V.K. Yegorov, deputy chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments, V.I. Filippov, chargé d'affaires ad interim of the USSR in the MPR, and other officials.

Lays Wreaths in Ulaanbaatar

OW170533 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1450 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 15 Mar (MONTSAME)—A.N. Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is visiting the country at the invitation of the MPRP Central Committee, today laid wreaths at the tomb of D. Sukhe Bator and H. Choybalsan and at the monument to V.I. Lenin, visited the V.I. Lenin Museum and the State Central Museum, and acquainted himself with other places of historical interest.

On the same day, A.N. Yakovlev visited the MPR Academy of Sciences, where he had a friendly talk with members of the Presidium of the MPR Academy of Sciences and scientists, and familiarized himself with the collection of rare books at the State Public Library.

Comrade A.N. Yakovlev was accompanied by D. Molomjams, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MPRP Central Committee; T. Balhaajab, secretary of the MPRP Central Committee; C. Tumendelger and G. Dashdzebeg, chiefs of MPRP Central Committee departments; B. Sumyaa, MPR minister of culture; Academician N. Sodnom, president of the MPR Academy of Sciences; and other officials, as well as V.I. Filippov, charge d'affaires ad interim of the USSR in the MPR, and diplomatic personnel from the Soviet Embassy.

North Korea

South 'Clique' Said Seeking 'Confrontation'
SK170439 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u military fascist clique on March 15 held a "meeting of major commanding officers" of the marine headquarters of the puppet Navy and agitated for confrontation with the North, according to a report.

Talking about somebody's "obstruction" to the Olympics, the fascist clique called for intensifying education of the puppet Marines in "idea of prevailing over communism" and "idea of security" and taking a "perfect alert posture."

This was aimed at inciting distrust and antagonism against the North among the South Korean people with lies about somebody's "possible provocation," "justifying" the suppression of those desirous of independence, democracy and reunification and stepping up the preparations for a war against the North for "prevailing over communism" under the pretext of the Olympics.

Paper on South's 'Dream' of Chemical Warfare
SK170703 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0005 GMT 15 Mar 88

[NODONG SINMUN 15 March commentary: "Barbarians' Dream of Nuclear Chemical Warfare"]

[Text] The No Tae-u clique recently carried out field mobilization exercises for a puppet Army unit to simulate chemical warfare. After the rascals perpetrated a series of commotions, including the mobilization of units for chemical warfare, the movement of positions, the replacement of war equipment, and so forth, they raved that this exercise was carried out as if it was real chemical warfare, and that it thus contributed to increasing operational capabilities.

Prior to this, heads of the puppet Air Force staged a joint chemical, biological, and radiological conference on chemical, biological, and nuclear warfare with the U.S. Air Force in South Korea. In the meantime, a puppet

Navy unit organized a new so-called chemical, biological, and radiological warfare school to offer its personnel large-scale chemical warfare training. It then began the instruction.

This demonstrates that preparations for chemical warfare by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets in the air, on the ground, and in the sea of South Korea have entered a full-scale stage.

It should not be overlooked that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are accelerating preparations for the criminal chemical warfare timed to coincide with the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise they are frantically staging.

The U.S. imperialists have deployed more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea. In recent years, the U.S. imperialists have dragged lethal newly developed weapons of mass destruction into South Korea whenever the "Team Spirit" war exercise was held. They then deployed them for a real war after testing their functions.

The dangerous nature of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, which is a test nuclear war and a preliminary war, has been widely known by the world.

The U.S. imperialists are pursuing chemical warfare, along with nuclear war, on the Korean peninsula. They are also producing gas bombs by establishing roughly 10 gas plants in South Korea. In addition, they have conspired with the puppets to bring U.S.-made chemical weapons into South Korea and have dragged in them on a large-scale.

According to what has been exposed, approximately 25,000 drums of chemical weapons of roughly 10 different types, including poisonous gas to be used in another Korean war, are presently being stockpiled in South Korea and Japan. In recent years, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have repeatedly conspired for chemical warfare and have carried out chemical war exercises whenever the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers were held.

Chemical, biological, and radiological warfare exercises are being staged more frequently. The U.S. imperialists and the puppets are frantically running amok with chemical war exercises while dragging numerous aggressor forces into South Korea from overseas. They are also openly raving that they will increase the scale of the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise this year. This clearly demonstrates that the rascals are attempting to carry out not only nuclear war but also chemical warfare in Korea.

The facts again proved to the entire world that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are warmongers who are unscrupulous about any wicked method of war for realizing their ambition for northward aggression.

At a time when the peace-loving people of the world are calling for the complete abolition of chemical weapons, as well as nuclear weapons—lethal weapons of mass destruction—the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are perpetrating an adventurous nuclear chemical war exercise that runs counter to this call. They cannot avoid international denunciation and rejection.

The Korean peninsula should not be turned into a testing ground for nuclear weapons and chemical weapons designed to completely destroy mankind.

The U.S. imperialists, who have already caused enormous calamities to our people most barbarously by provoking a war of aggression in Korea, are, together with the puppets, frantically aiming at a chance to pour nuclear bombs and poisonous bombs over the heads of our people. We are closely and vigilantly watching this.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets ignite the flames of a northward war of aggression, thus challenging our people's aspirations for peace and reunification, the entire world, not to mention our own people, will not tolerate these most vicious war criminals. The warmongers should not run recklessly.

Daily Says South Suppressing Chuche Followers
SK170453 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The ranks of the people espousing and following the great chuche idea are rapidly increasing in South Korea. Dismayed by this, the military fascist clique is frantically mounting suppression in an attempt to check it.

Denouncing this in a signed commentary, NODONG SINMUN today says:

Recently the fascist clique arrested students of Korea, Kyonghui, Tongguk and Kangwon Universities who studied the chuche idea. The harsh suppression of the students and people choosing and espousing the ideology suited to their desire and demand is an unpardonable treachery which can be committed only by such enemy of the nation and fascist tyrants as the No Tae-u group which schemes to stifle the patriotic democratic forces desirous of independence, democracy and reunification and maintain and prolong the colonial military fascist rule without a hitch with the help of the U.S. imperialists.

This shows once again that South Korea is a society under fascist dictatorship blocking the freedom of choosing the ideology and that No Tae-u and his ilk are a group of traitors opposed to the unity and reunification of the nation.

Although the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u clique might bind people hand and foot and throw them behind the bars, wielding the bayonet, they cannot check or break the faith of the people who regard the chuche idea as the moral support and nourishment.

People 'Warmly' Welcome Defector Son Hak-su
SK170443 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Pyongyang working people held a meeting on March 16 to warmly welcome Son Hak-su who defected to the northern half of Korea while serving as a civilian transport officer at the Second Division Headquarters of the U.S. forces in South Korea.

At the meeting, Son Hak-su was awarded Order of the National Flag Third Class and much money and was given souvenirs.

Yi Tok-yop, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, made a welcome address at the meeting.

He said that Son Hak-su's defection to the northern half of Korea is a just act out of national conscience and human reason and a righteous patriotic act.

The speaker noted that in recent years the number of defectors to the northern half of Korea has increased and that they are studying, working and living a worthy life to their heart's content according to their hope and talent. Son hak-su, too, will enjoy a worthy life in the warm embrace of the DPRK, he said.

Son Hak-su made a reply speech.

He said:

What makes me feel most proud in the North is that the people in the North are closely united with their own idea, the chuche idea.

Going round different places in Pyongyang, I could see that all people are firmly rallied in one mind and purpose behind the great General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il and I realized what is the source of the great power of the DPRK.

I could also know clearly why the Yankees were so afraid of the North.

What greatly impressed me in the North is that our nation-first idea holds sway here.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers are continuously stepping up the preparations for a war against the North. The "Team Spirit" military exercises are a very dangerous rehearsal for a war, a nuclear war against the North.

Despite the harsh suppression, the people in the South revere the great General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il as the sun of our nation and boundlessly long for the North which is under a genuine popular government. This is the irresistible trend among the people of all walks of life in the South.

In conclusion, he shouted "Long live the great General Kim Il-song!" and "Long live the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il!"

60th Anniversary of Peasant Union Celebrated
*SK150451 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT
15 Mar 88*

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—A grand central meeting was held in Pyongyang on March 14 to mark the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Peasant Union by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song (March 10, 1928).

The Peasant Union formed during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was the first revolutionary organization of peasants in Korea.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a congratulatory message to the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and the entire agricultural working people on the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Peasant Union.

Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-president of the DPRK, read out the message at the meeting.

The message said:

Over the past 60 years, our revolutionary peasant organizations and peasants have vigorously advanced along the broad avenue of the revolutionary cause of chuche under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the revolutionary peasant organizations rallied the masses of peasants in their ranks, strove to revolutionize broad rural areas and greatly helped towards building up the subject of the revolution and ensuring victory in the armed struggle.

In the course of the arduous and protracted anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the glorious revolutionary traditions, the immortal bedrock of our party and revolution, were established and the revolutionary peasant organizations struck their deep, strong historical roots. The tradition of building the revolutionary peasant organization established during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle serves as a priceless revolutionary asset in the development of our revolution and in the struggle for the settlement of the peasant problem and the agricultural problem.

The Peasant Union founded after the country's liberation inheriting the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle and the masses of peasants closely rallied around it resolutely defended and implemented the lines and policies of our party and creditably discharged their duty in the fulfilment of the historical cause of settling the rural problem in each period of the revolutionary development.

The organizations of the Union of Agricultural Working People which strengthened and developed in keeping with the new conditions after the overall victory of the socialist system in the rural communities and the agricultural working people devoted their all to the worthwhile efforts to consolidate the socialist rural economic system, implement the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions and increase the agricultural production along the road indicated by the party and greatly contributed to the acceleration of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea highly estimates the brilliant successes made by the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and the agricultural working people in the struggle to accelerate the revolutionary cause of chuche and the final settlement of the rural problem inheriting the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle under the guidance of the party and the leader.

Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, made a report at the meeting.

He said the first Peasant Union formed by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sor^g on March 10, 1928, was a true revolutionary peasant organization which fought for the liberation of the country and the social and class emancipation of the peasants, regarding the chuche idea as its unshakable guideline, and a mass peasant organization which involved broad masses of the peasants fighting against the Japanese imperialists and the pro-Japanese landlords.

The reporter continued:

Comrade Kim Il-song founded the Peasant Union of North Korea on January 31, 1946, on the basis of his original idea and theory on the building of the revolutionary peasant organization and valuable exploits and rich experience he gained during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. He published his immortal classical work "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country" and indicated the absolutely correct way of the final settlement of the rural question for the first time in history.

His chuché-based idea of the building of the peasant organization and his valuable exploits in the settlement of the rural question are being carried forward brilliantly in a new stage thanks to the tested leadership of our party.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classical work "On Further Strengthening the Work of the Union of Agricultural Working People" is a powerful theoretical and practical weapon which gives the absolutely correct answers to the problems in the revolutionary peasant movement of our time and a militant program which makes it possible to constantly strengthen the work of the Union of Agricultural Working People.

Anniversary of Soviet Economic Accord Marked

Papers Carry Articles

SK170457 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN and MINJU CHOSON today dedicate signed articles to the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the Korean-Soviet agreement on economic and cultural cooperation (March 17, 1949).

The article of NODONG SINMUN says:

The agreement has greatly contributed to developing friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples and promoting socialist construction in the two countries.

The Korean-Soviet friendship has a long tradition.

Over the past period, the Korean and Soviet peoples have supported and closely cooperated with each other and achieved great successes in socialist construction.

Today the fraternal Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev are energetically striving to fulfil the 12th Five-Year Plan set forth at the 27th party congress and promote socio-economic development.

Proceeding from its noble duty for the cause of world peace, the Soviet Union has advanced positive peace proposals and made sincere efforts for their realization. The peaceloving position of the Soviet Union is proved by the peace initiatives including the proposals for establishing a comprehensive universal international security system, realizing nuclear disarmament, preventing the militarization of the outer space and completely abolishing all sorts of nuclear and chemical weapons and the INF treaty signed between the Soviet Union and the United States in December last year and the measures for its implementation.

The Korean people fully support the proposals and efforts of the Soviet Union for world peace and security.

The Korean-Soviet friendship has expanded and developed with each passing day in accordance with the interests and aspirations of the two peoples.

The meetings between the leaders of the two countries in 1984 and 1986 were historic events which brought the traditional Korean-Soviet friendly relations to a new higher stage.

The close relations of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples which were forged and have been developing on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism contribute to promoting the revolution and construction in the two countries and strengthening the might of socialism as a whole.

The Korean people will strive actively as ever to develop these relations onto a higher stage in all fields.

MINJU CHOSON says: The Korean people believe that the relations of the traditional Korean-Soviet friendship will be brought into full bloom in the future and wish the fraternal Soviet people greater success in the efforts for the prosperity and development of the country and global peace and security.

Friendship Society Celebrates

SK170445 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society on March 16 arranged a film show and cocktail party on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union. Soviet Ambassador to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich and his embassy officials were invited there. Present there were Yi Mong-ho, chairman of the committee for cultural relations with foreign countries, Kim Song-hwan, vice-minister of external economic affairs, Yi Pong-hui, vice-chairman of the radio and TV broadcasting committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, other officials concerned and working people in the city. The participants first appreciated a Soviet feature film. Speeches were exchanged at the cocktail party.

Meanwhile, the North Hamgyong Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee also arranged a film show on March 16 on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

Government Delegations Departures Noted
SK171037 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT
17 Mar 88

[“Visits—KCNA Headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—A government metal delegation headed by Choe Man-hyon, minister of metal industry, to visit the Soviet Union, a delegation of the Union of Agricultural Working People headed by Pak Su-tong, chairman of its Central Committee, to visit Poland and Syria, a delegation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry headed by Yi In-kyu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, to visit the German Democratic Republic, a Korean trade union delegation headed by Kim Kuk-sam, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, to visit Cuba and a delegation of the Trade Union of Public Employees of Korea headed by Yi Chang-tok, vice-chairman of its Central Committee, to attend the 8th Congress of the Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees slated in Bulgaria left here today by plane.

WPK Group Leaves for Mali
SK171033 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Secretary of its Central Committee Choe Tae-pok left here today by plane to attend the Third Congress of the Malian People's Democratic Union.

It was seen off at the airport by Kim Yong-sun, first vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Boris Morozov, minister-councillor of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang.

Kim Yong-nam Receives New Bulgarian Envoy
SK170429 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam on March 16 met and had a conversation with Petur Danailov, newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Soldiers Meeting Marks Mongolian Army Day
SK170433 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—A soldiers' meeting was held on March 16 at the unit of the Korean People's Army to which Comrade O Ki-su belongs on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the founding of the Mongolian People's Army.

Mongolian Ambassador to Korea Perenlein Urjinlhub-deb and his embassy officials were invited to the meeting.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

Daily on Kim Chong-il's Work on Chuche
SK140501 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT
14 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN Sunday comes out with a signed article entitled “Proper View of Subject of Revolution Is Essential for Remaining Loyal to Revolutionary Cause.”

The article says:

In his work “On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea,” dear Comrade Kim Chong-il propounded the idea of the subject of the revolution and on this basis defined it as absolutely important in the education in the chuche idea for the party members and other working people to have a proper view of the subject of the revolution.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said:

“In order to remain faithful to the revolutionary cause the party members and working people must, first of all, have a proper view of the subject of the revolution.”

A proper understanding of the subject of the revolution is important in understanding the true principle of the revolution and firmly establishing a chuche-based revolutionary outlook on the world.

The principle of the subject of the revolution enables the people to have a scientific understanding of the principle that the popular masses are the subject of history, with the leader as the centre.

Comrade Kim Chong-il was the first in history to propound the idea that the popular masses can become the independent subject of history and the subject of the revolution only when they are united in one ideology and organization under the leadership of the party and the leader.

The principle of the subject of the revolution crystallizes the principle of the revolutionary struggle and a proper attitude to and viewpoint on the revolution.

The principle of the subject of the revolution also contains many principles of the chuche idea such as the principle of the decisive role of the leader in the revolutionary struggle, the principle of the position and role of the popular masses and the principle of the combination of guidance and the masses. The principle of the subject of the revolution is the source of all principles including

the question of remaining boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader, the question of having a revolutionary outlook on life and the viewpoint and attitude needed for the revolution and construction. Therefore, when people have a proper understanding of the subject of the revolution, they can consolidate the chuche-based revolutionary outlook on the world and live and struggle always as required by the chuche idea.

A proper understanding of the subject of the revolution is of great importance in firmly establishing a revolutionary attitude regarding the leader. The leader is the centre in the subject of the revolution. The leader founds a party and trains the people to be an independent people. The independent subject of the revolution is formed by the leader, and his guidance is the vital factor that leads the popular masses to display power as the subject of the revolution.

As a result of the original, unified exposition of the idea that the popular masses are the masters of the revolution and construction and the principle that the leader plays the decisive role in the revolutionary struggle, the people have been able to cherish as their life and soul the revolutionary attitude regarding the leader. Herein lies the great importance of the firm maintenance of a view of the subject of the revolution.

The firm maintenance of a view of the subject of the revolution plays an important role in the establishment of a revolutionary outlook on the world because it shows the ideological and moral traits not only of the people who struggle to build a socialist society at present but also of the people who will live in the future communist society.

The course of socialist and communist construction is a course in which the remaking of nature and society and the remoulding of people are accelerated by the power of the integral whole of the leader, the party and the people, the subject of the revolution.

It is the law of the development of human history that when the subject of the revolution is strengthened, the socialist system consolidates and develops constantly and the building of socialism and communism is crowned with victory. The idea of the subject of the revolution has an eternal vitality and great attraction in that it imbues the people with this truth and leads them to vigorously advance toward the communist future.

Collective Guidance of Party Committee Viewed
SK161520 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT
16 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN today carries a signed article entitled "Complex and Collective Guidance of its Party Committee Which Embody Requirement of Taean System."

What is important at present in effecting steady innovations and upswing in the 200-Day Campaign of the entire party members and working people in hearty response to the letter and calls of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea is to strengthen the collective guidance of the party committee and carry through the mass line in accordance with the requirement of the Taean work system, the article says, and goes on:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

"All sectors and all units of the national economy must apply the system and method of chuche-orientated socialist economic management that accord with the natural requirement of the socialist system and the situation in our country so as to strengthen the collective leadership of the party committee and implement the mass line. In this way we shall give full scope to the superiority of the socialist system and bring about continual upswing and innovations in production and construction."

The industrial establishments have been successfully managed and operated in a collective way in keeping with the natural requirement of the socialist system since Comrade Kim Il-song created the Taean work system which makes it possible to carry through the mass line under the collective leadership of the party committee.

The core of the Taean system is the collective guidance of the party committee. To implement the mass line under the collective leadership of the party committee—herein the basic spirit and the revolutionary nature of the taean system under which economic affairs are managed well in the interests of the party and the revolution and in keeping with the desire and demand of the popular masses and all problems are resolved in reliance on the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative initiative of the producer masses.

A complex in Korea is a form of an enterprise which further increases the collective guidance of the party committee and carries through the mass line as demanded by the Taean system.

Our party made sure that at complexes which were formed with several industrial establishments closely linked with each other in production and technology, the party committees with a direct grip on its affiliated primary party organisations give party guidance in a unified way to economic affairs on the principle of strictly subordinating it to carrying out the economic tasks of the complexes.

The party committee of a complex indicates the correct direction of its activity so that all the economic tasks of the complex can be carried out purposefully according to the intention of the party. And for successfully carrying

them out, it combines the party work closely with the administrative and economic work along the pointed direction so as to ensure its collective guidance more effectively.

Our party made sure that three persons, chief secretary, director and chief engineer in charge of the party, administrative and technical work of the complex manage the complex well as one body and thus turn the party work into an effective one helpful to carrying out economic tasks.

The collective guidance of the party committee also makes it possible to establish strict discipline and good order by which all sectors move under the unified guidance of the administration officials.

Its collective guidance renders it possible to successfully solve all the problems arising in the management of the complex through political work and carry through the mass line.

In the complex economy is managed under the collective leadership of the party committee, the party guidance to the economic affairs strengthened and the political work, the work with the people, given priority to enhance the role and responsibility of the producer masses as masters of the economic management on the principle of collectivism. Herein lie the basic characteristics of the complex and the source of its indestructible might and inexhaustible vitality.

South Korea

Kim Tae-chung Resigns Without 'Conditions' SK170611 Seoul YONHAP in English 0547 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung resigned as president of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) Thursday without setting any conditions in order to clear the way for an opposition merger before the parliamentary elections to be held in late April.

Kim's resignation, announced in a statement read by PPD Vice President Pak Yong-suk at a news conference, is expected to immediately revive the ruptured merger talks with the rival opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) which has persistently demanded that Kim step down to realize the merger.

Kim said in the statement that his resignation was meant to abide with the national aspiration for an opposition victory in the upcoming general elections.

He clarified, however, that despite his resignation, he will do all he can to bring about an opposition victory.

Kim reiterated that he has pledged since January to step down after achieving a three-way merger among the PPD, RDP and dissident groups, and explained that he wanted to retain his leadership until the merger was realized because of a political scheme to block the opposition merger while ousting him from the PPD's leadership.

Kim said that since the efforts for an opposition merger were on the verge of collapsing, he felt his resignation was the only way to salvage the merger.

After reading Kim's statement, Pak, who will head the PPD as acting president, told reporters that her party can resume the merger talks immediately through the existing PPD and RDP merger committees.

She pointed out that the two major opposition parties had already resolved to reunite during their respective national conventions and had each formed 150-member delegations for a merger rally.

After the RDP decided to accept the PPD's demand for a single-member constituency system as the opposition's sole policy for amending the National Assembly election law, the two parties seemed very close to agreement on the merger early this month.

While the two parties' last-minute negotiations over the merger stalled, the ruling Democratic Justice Party rammed its own amendment bill, which called for a single-member constituency system, through the National Assembly on March 7.

The merger talks, however, broke off last week after Kim Tae-chung announced in a news conference on March 9 that he refused to resign as PPD president and instead proposed that both parties jointly field opposition candidates in the parliamentary elections.

Pak told reporters that the PPD's policy on the merger has not changed, leaving prospects for an opposition merger unclear.

The PPD has demanded a joint leadership of the proposed unified opposition party designated by Kim Tae-chung and former RDP President Kim Yong-sam and that the PPD and RDP share the new party's power on a 50-50 basis.

Rival opposition leader Kim Yong-sam resigned as RDP president on Feb. 8 in a surprise move calling for a unified opposition. Kim Yong-sam has refused to accept any formal leadership role in either the proposed new unified opposition party or the RDP.

The RDP, which succeeded in reaching agreement for a merger earlier this week with a new opposition party called the Hangyora (one brethren) Democratic Party

and a group of independent opposition lawmakers, opposes any joint leadership but favors a collective leadership headed by an RDP member.

Buoyed by the agreement with the two other opposition groups, the RDP is determined to overtake the PPD and achieve a unified opposition.

RDP, 3 Opposition Parties Agree To Join
SK170137 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
17 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] A dim ray of hope for a unified opposition flickered yesterday as the Reunification Democratic Party and three minor opposition groups agreed to give the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] a last chance to join a common opposition front.

The RDP and the three opposition factions were scheduled to declare an alliance yesterday in a bid to achieve a partial unification of the opposition excluding the PPD.

But they decided to postpone the declaration by one day to today as Rep. Yi Chung-chae of the PPD, who learned the news, requested one more day for the PPD to make a final decision.

The PPD scuttled earlier merger negotiations with the RDP and the yet-to-be-formed Hangyora Democratic Party [HDP] by rejecting a demand that PPD president Kim Tae-chung completely retreat from the political front line.

[Seoul *THE KOREA HERALD* in English on 17 March on page 2 carries a similar article and here adds: "The embryonic Hangyora Democratic Party, co-led by Ye Chun-ho, Che Chong-ku, Chang Ul-pyong and Rep. Cho Sun-hyong, is ready to hold an inaugural convention late next week in case of the failure of the merger."]

Yi was quoted as saying that he needed time to discuss the demand with Kim and to reach a final position. His request was conveyed to the RDP through negotiators from the Hangyora Democratic Party.

As negotiators from the RDP and the three minor opposition groups agreed to accept the request, there remains a ray of hope that the opposition camp might resume efforts for a grand unification.

But political observers said there is little possibility of Kim Tae-chung declaring his retreat to a political back seat thereby paving the way for a unified opposition.

On the contrary, they said Yi's request might be an attempt to delay or interfere with the RDP's scheme to form an alliance with minor opposition groups.

The three opposition factions which were to join hands with the RDP were the HDP, a splinter group of independent lawmakers and an extraparliamentary dissident group.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Choe Hyong-u and Rep. Kim Chong-kil of the RDP, Yi Hyon-pae and Yu In-tae of the HDP and Reps. Yi Chol and Chang Ki-uk of the independent group.

[Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* adds: "The four independent lawmakers also negotiating with the RDP are Pak Chan-chong, Yi Chol, Chang Ki-uk and Ho Kyong-ku. They once belonged to RDP but broke away from the party to press for the single presidential candidacy between its former leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung.

["Dissident figures talking with the party include Yi Sin-pom and other noted former activists in their late 30's and early forties."]

They agreed to declare unification among the RDP and the three minor groups today unless Kim Tae-chung formally announces his resignation from the PPD presidency, which is most unlikely.

The four sides have already agreed in their secret previous meetings to jointly field candidates in Seoul and other big cities for the upcoming general elections.

The RDP has reportedly conceded the three groups as a whole a right to nominate half of candidates in those big cities.

The negotiators, however, differed on naming of the new unified party and allocation of nominees for the elections.

The RDP side maintained the party name should be retained because the RDP will annex the three groups.

On the other hand, the Hangyora side said the new party should have a new name because the RDP's image is tarnished.

They suggested calling it the Uri (Our) Democratic Party.

Protests, 'Reluctance' Mar DJP Nominations
SK170051 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
17 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] The Democratic Justice Party is having labor pains finalizing the nominations of its parliamentary candidates due to strong protests by some potential dropouts and the reluctance of recruits to run in urban constituencies.

The announcement of standard-bearers is expected either today or tomorrow.

Chairman Chae Mun-sik, head of a 10-member screening panel, told reporters yesterday that it takes time to prepare the public notice of nominees as the list includes "over 100 political novices."

Informed DJP sources said that more than 140 of the 224 nominees would be "new faces."

About 30 incumbents elected from the previous medium-sized districts, will be excluded from the list. They include Yun Kil-chung, Hong Song-u, Kwon Yong-u, all from Seoul, who have renounced candidacies, along with Yi Pom-chun, new transportation minister.

Rep. Pong Tu-wan, ex-chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, yesterday declared he had no intention of becoming a DJP candidate in protest against a party order to run in Mapo instead of his home base of Yongsan.

The dropouts will also include Yi Sang-ik, former chairman of the DJP's Central Executive Council; Chong Sok-mo, former secretary general; and Chon Yong-song, chairman of the House Defense Committee, all from Chungchongnamdo.

Others are Na Sok-ho and An Pyong-kyu, leaders of the Judiciary and Agriculture-Fisheries Committees, respectively, and Yi Chan-hyok, head of the Seoul municipal branch.

Chong Sok-mo is learned to have been replaced with Yi Sang-chae, former deputy secretary general but his case is being reconsidered apparently owing to fervent support in his Kongju district, ranking DJP officials said.

Kim Suk-hyon, 68, excluded for his "advanced age," strongly protested to DJP executives, saying he is "still active."

Following of Kim Chong-ki from Talsong-Koryong, Kyongsangpukdo, and Yu Sang-ho from Hapchon staged separate protests in front of party headquarters, a familiar scene nowadays.

As Ko Hung-mun and Son Se-il, ex-lawmakers in the opposition array, have turned down DJP offers, two Seoul districts remain vacant.

Seoul and other large cities are generally unpopular among ruling party candidates for urban voters are more inclined to vote for the opposition.

The government party had earlier designated former government administration minister Kim Yong-hyu as a third alternative in the Chongyang-Hongsong district in Chungchongnamdo in which lawmaker Choe Chang-kyu is engaging in a tug of war with Yun Sok-sun, ex-chief secretary to the prime minister.

Another figure is, however, being sought for the district because Kim refused to get involved in the game.

Chong Mong-chun, chairman of Hyundai Heavy Industries, has been approached to become a DJP candidate since none would be able to compete with him in one Ulsan district, 80 percent of whose total population is affiliated with the Hyundai conglomerate.

But some screening committee members still oppose granting him a nomination in fear that it may arouse condemnation of a "power-corporate connection."

'Stunning' Pong Withdrawal Noted

*SK170143 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 88 p 2*

[“Press Pocket” column: “Stunning Move”]

[Text] Rep. Pong Tu-hwan, a two-term lawmaker of the Democratic Justice Party from Seoul, withdrew himself from the party nomination in a stunning move yesterday.

Pong, a former TV anchor, was at odds with the party leadership over the readjustment of electoral precinct. He hoped to run in Yongsan, but the party recommended him to move to nearby Mapo B district while inducing Rep. So Chong-hwa from the national constituency to take up Yongsan.

Yongsan and Mapo were one electoral constituency in the previous medium-sized constituency system, but Pong is reluctant to run in Mapo where he would compete with strong oppositionist No Song-hwan.

“I feel dejected after the decision... but I will retire from politics and seek another way to serve the nation and the people,” Pong said regretfully.

“I understand what the party’s line is,” he continued, “however, the party should consider the meaning of its narrow victory in the presidential election.”

Political observers said Pong seemed to have lost the party nomination because of his outspoken manner against party hardliners.

“He is known to have called for civilian-controlled politics. He always took sides with those who urged reform and the implementation of democracy in the party.”

Kim Hyon-hui Claims Called 'Fabrication'
OW160025 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT
15 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—The pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) Tuesday said that claims that Kim Hyon-hui, a self-confessed North Korean agent who bombed a South Korean airliner last November, was the girl in a photograph taken in Pyongyang were a fabrication.

Chongnyon, in a press conference here, released a videotaped interview and photos of a North Korean woman who said the girl in the photo was not Kim but herself.

Chongnyon said the girl in the photo, recently carried by a pictorial magazine published by the Japan Communist Party, was Chong Hui-son, now 27, a teacher in Pyongyang.

South Korea has said Kim Hyon-hui testified that she was the girl in the photo.

The picture was taken by a correspondent of the JCP paper "AKAHATA" in Pyongyang when the second round of talks of the North-South Coordinating Committee was held there in November 1972.

Chong said in the interview videotaped by Chongnyon in Pyongyang early this month that the girl in the photo presenting a bouquet to the second man who got out of a helicopter was herself.

She also said she had tied a scarf around the South Korean delegate's neck after presenting him with a bouquet.

Chongnyon said Chong had presented the bouquet to Chang Ki-yong who led the South Korean delegation to the talks.

The JCP said it would not comment on Chongnyon's claim at present.

President No Comments on Current Issues

Calls for Import Liberalization
SK150924 Seoul YONHAP in English 0803 GMT
15 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u Tuesday called for more efficient management of the nation's increasing current account surplus.

Commenting on the Finance Ministry's policy programs for this year, No pointed to the need for liberalizing imports and foreign exchange control.

South Korea's current account surplus stood at 9.78 billion U.S. dollars last year, recording an impressive 111.7 percent rise from the 4.6 billion-dollar surplus of a year ago when the country's current account moved into the black for the first time in Korean history.

The continued drastic rise of the current account surplus, propelled by trade surpluses, has resulted in mounting pressure by the industrialized nations calling for South Korea's domestic markets to open wider.

No also instructed the Finance Ministry officials to work out policy measures to promote overseas investments while reducing the country's foreign debts to the level of 20 to 25 percent of the gross national product (GNP).

No told the officials to provide compensation measures for those who might be adversely affected by the import liberalization.

He also instructed the Finance Ministry to reform the taxational system to bring about a more balanced distribution of income.

Warns Rights' Violators
SK170153 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u emphasized yesterday that violations of human rights, especially liable to occur in the course of interrogation of criminal suspects, should be harshly dealt with.

No told Justice Minister Chong Hae-chang that the prosecution should do its utmost not to ignore the basic rights of criminal suspects.

While being briefed on the major programs of the Justice Ministry by Chong, the President emphasized that torture should cease.

The President also called for combined efforts by all prosecutors for the elimination of authoritarian behavior in the interrogation of criminals which he said is essential to achieve democratic reforms.

No instructed the ministry to study ways of expanding legal aid to needy persons or those with little knowledge of the law. The ministry should positively accept recommendations for democratic reforms, suggested by the Democracy and Reconciliation Committee, an advisory panel for No Tae-u before his inauguration.

The law-enforcement authorities were directed to double their efforts to make the coming April general election proceed in a fair and free climate, while concentrating their energy on cracking down on possible acts of violence during the electioneering period.

No particularly stressed that election rigging or other corrupt acts should not occur in the course of voting and ballot-counting.

The President told the prosecution to maintain a closer cooperative system with international investigation organs in seeking joint measures to prevent the occurrence of sabotages or terrorism before and during the September Olympics, according to presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong.

The Justice Ministry was also directed to minimize the possibility of inconvenience to Olympic delegates and foreign tourists coming to Seoul around the Olympic season.

Later in the afternoon, President No gave a tea party to meritorious industrialists, who were given citations in a Commerce Day ceremony.

Briefed by Defense Minister
SK170315 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—National Defense Minister O Cha-pok said Thursday that 1988 will be the most crucial year for South Korea's security.

O said that North Korea has been scheming to create unrest in the South and establish links with international terrorist organizations to sabotage the 1988 Seoul Olympics, scheduled for Sept. 17-Oct. 2.

In a briefing for President No Tae-u on the ministry's policies for this year, O said that the period between the latter half of this year, when the Seoul Olympics end, and the first half of 1989 will be the most vulnerable time for the nation's security.

He said that North Korea is expected to launch various provocations during the period in an effort to capitalize on a possible weakening of South Koreans' security consciousness when the Olympics conclude while also seeking to use the U.S. presidential election to its advantage.

The defense ministry will make efforts to expand the people's understanding of the security situation by publishing a white paper on national defense and North Korean threats, he said.

As for the neutrality of the Armed Forces, a matter often cited as a prerequisite for the nation's democratization, the defense minister said the ministry will seek a variety of opinions on the issue and see that the military remains neutral.

The defense minister added that the military will endeavor to build public trust and help contribute to national reconciliation by carrying out reforms of the military.

Urges Apolitical Military

SK170840 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u stressed Thursday that the military should not be used for political purposes.

The military should be faithful in its natural duties as the military of the people, No said. This must be the duty of the military in the new era of democratic development and national reconciliation.

No's remarks followed a briefing by Defense Minister O Cha-pok on the national defense ministry's 1988 policies.

In his report, O said that his ministry will establish a committee to study ways of maintaining the political neutrality of the military.

The issue of the military's neutrality in national politics has widely been referred to as a prerequisite for South Korea's democratization process.

The military should establish a fresh image suitable for the democratic era by clearing away the vestiges of authoritarianism and consciousness of privileges still remaining in some parts of the military, the president said.

No said there should be no basis for any misunderstanding among the people that the military will intervene in the upcoming general elections, adding that there should never be the slightest suspicion of any manipulation of soldiers' absentee ballots. He observed that the attitudes of the military personnel have changed from what they used to be.

In past elections, including the presidential election held last December, the opposition and social organizations have charged that the military manipulated soldiers' absentee ballots to help ruling party candidates win election to office.

The National Assembly elections are expected to be held in late April.

No instructed the ministry to consolidate the nation's defense preparedness to prevent North Korea from launching provocations and acts of terrorism. He also called on the ministry to establish mid- and long-term defense policies.

No also ordered the ministry to carry out a military buildup without fail in order to erase the military gap between South and North Korea by the early 1990s and establish firm leadership in the military.

Daily on No Statement Concerning Press Freedom
SK170033 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
17 Mar 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Force-Free Press"]

[Text] Necessary for justice tomorrow is the admission of injustice today. This maxim should be taken to heart in the present course of pushing through sociopolitical reforms based on democratic principles.

In this particular regard, most encouraging is the remark by President No Tae-u earlier in the week overtly admitting that Chongwadae had made a practice of intervening in press activities.

The President stressed that the government should no longer use force on the mass media to attain its objectives "as seen in the past." The presidential remarks came in a briefing session at Chongwadae on major policies in culture and information affairs from the Culture-Information Ministry.

President No was further said to have noted that the government should try to seek cooperation from the media to help the people understand the administration's policies. Also noteworthy was a presidential directive to put to an end the practice of publicizing the government's projects in an arbitrary fashion, once and for all.

In an advanced society where democratic institutions are in full bloom, freedom of the press unreservedly guaranteed, as is frequently stressed. [sentence as published] Further, the key to democracy is not a political system based on so-called democratic formulas but an active, democratic press, free from external pressure and control.

From this perspective, President No's instruction may well indicate his strong will to realize press freedom, which can under no circumstances be undermined, as long as the nation is to make realize a democratic national politics under the new Republic.

The great majority of people will admit there was a failure to guarantee the freedom of the press to an acceptable degree during the preceding government despite the loudly spoken slogans for democratization that continued all the way along. Because of this, the monumental task of democratic reforms has had to be handed over to the incumbent.

We would construe President No's administrative guideline as a clear-cut policy statement on a free press, which will lead to democratization, not by words but by deeds in the days ahead.

Trade Restrictions Lifted for 23 Items
SK170231 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
17 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Refined sugar, marble, tennis rackets and 20 others of total 48 items under strict import monitoring system will be imported without restriction from April 1, the Trade-Industry Ministry announced yesterday.

The remaining 25 items, including rotary press machine, frozen fruit and potatoes, will also be free from the system by the end of this year. The numbers are based on commodity classification of the eight-digit CCCN [Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature].

The government has also lifted import restriction on 56 of the total 147 commodities, whose imports have been curbed from Japan under the government's policy to diversify import source away from the neighboring country, effective April 1.

A total of 53 items, whose imports have been controlled in connection with special laws, will also be imported freely from April 1.

The number breaks down into 18 items subject to inspection prior to imports in accordance with industrial products quality management law, 24 raw pharmaceutical materials under the pharmaceutical law and 11 isotopes under the atomic energy law.

The 23 items free from import monitoring on April 1 include granite, caustic soda in liquid, sodium chlorate, umbrellas, worked stone, sheet glass, wooden chair and wooden furniture.

Included in the 25 items which will be free from the monitoring by the end of this year are birds' egg and egg yolk, dried onion, garlic and firnbrace, frozen fruit, jujubes, ginger, castor oil, lactose, artificial honey, casein, silk waste-spun yarn, satellite radio-broadcast receivers, rotary press machine and parabolic antena.

The items which will be freely imported from Japan include parasol, kitchen glassware, air conditioners, washing machine, electronic calculators, fish detectors and ships for scrap.

The commodities whose imports will be free from prior inspection include electric blanket, bath tubs, reclaimed tire, outdoor antenna, headphones and thermometers.

The ministry has also shifted permission system to report in the imports of 101 items in pharmaceuticals and atomic energy for free imports.

On the other hand, compact cars with engine capacity of 1,500cc or less and six other items will be prohibited from being imported from Japan as they have been newly listed at import sources diversification. As a result, 98 items have remained as import source diversification items.

But, short sword with blade six centimeters or more long and sodium chlorate will be imported at the approval of the home minister or the Precision Chemical Industry Promotion Association.

U.S. Asked To Resume GATT Beef Talks
SK170057 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea has asked the United States to resume the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)-sponsored bilateral beef talks on March 23 and 24 in Geneva.

A senior official at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said on Thursday that if the U.S. accepts the proposal, the government will send its negotiating team immediately.

The official said the Korean delegation will reaffirm the fact that Korea's 1985 ban on imports of quality U.S. beef was not a permanent but a temporary measure to stabilize domestic prices.

The official said the Korean delegates will also stress in the talks with their U.S. counterparts that the U.S. efforts through GATT to open up the Korean beef market will not necessarily have favorable results for the United States as Australia recently made a similar proposal in calling for GATT talks.

The latest GATT talks between South Korea and the United States were held on Feb. 19 and 20 in Geneva, but the two countries failed to reach an agreement.

The United States has threatened to take retaliatory trade action invoking Section 301 of the 1974 U.S. trade act unless South Korea immediately lifts its ban on imports of quality U.S. beef for use at tourist hotels.

South Korea has proposed a resumption of its U.S. beef imports after its parliamentary elections to be held in late April, but the U.S. appealed to the GATT demanding the immediate resumption of beef imports as well as additional imports of U.S. beef for use at tourist restaurants.

8-Percent Growth Set; Unemployment 'To Soar'
SK170107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] The nation's jobless rate is expected to soar to 3.7 percent this year from 3.1 percent last year, the Economic Planning Board [EPB] said yesterday.

The higher jobless rate is based on the 8 percent economic growth projected for this year. The growth will create job opportunities merely for 354,000 persons this year compared with 849,000 persons last year.

The growth rate was 12.2 percent last year and 12.3 percent in 1986.

The reluctance of enterprises to invest in labor-intensive sectors is another factor which will increase the jobless rate, the EPB said. Businesses are expected to invest in the development of technology expanding the employment of highly educated persons rather than unskilled workers due to labor-management disputes last year.

The EPB yesterday announced the economic operation program for 1988 which was decided on at an economic ministers meeting in the afternoon.

According to the program, the nation's gross national product (GNP) will reach \$145 billion this year up from the \$118 billion last year if the 8 percent economic growth rate is achieved.

The GNP will translate into \$3,450 per capita GNP, up from the \$2,813 last year and \$2,922 projected for this year in the sixth five-year socio-economic development plan, which started last year.

The government plans to reduce the current account surplus from \$9.8 billion in 1987 to \$7 billion this year.

The surplus breaks down into \$5 billion in trade and \$2 billion in invisible trade and net transfer, up \$500 million each from the original projections early this year.

To trim the trade surplus to \$5 billion from last year's \$7.7 billion, the government has set the export goal for this year at \$55 billion and import goal at \$52 billion on a customs clearance basis.

The government is also determined to peg the surplus in invisible trade and net transfer at \$2 billion, down from the \$2.1 billion last year.

The current account surplus is expected to reduce the gross external debt of the nation to \$31 billion at the end of this year, down from the \$35.6 billion last year, and increase overseas assets from \$13.2 billion to \$15.5 billion. As a result, net external debt will decline from \$22.4 billion in 1987 to \$15.5 billion this year.

Domestic savings ratio to the GNP will be sustained at 35.5 percent, 0.3 percentage points lower than last year, and investment ratio to the GNP will rise from 29.3 percent last year to 32 percent, the EPB forecast.

But the government will hold wholesale and retail price rises at 3 percent and 5 percent, respectively, for this year as planned at the outset of this year.

To attain these goals, the government has taken various kinds of anti-inflation measures since late last year.

Foreign Minister To Meet Japanese Counterpart

*SK150539 Seoul YONHAP in English 0521 GMT
15 Mar 88*

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan will hold a foreign ministers' conference next Monday in Seoul, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday.

The ministry said the two countries will discuss an early inauguration of a liaison committee on joint security efforts to prevent terrorist acts from obstructing the Seoul Olympic games and establishment of the wise-men's council for the 21st century.

In the meeting, South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Kwang-su and his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno will also discuss Japan's cooperation in South Korea's efforts to substantially improve its relations with the Soviet Union, China, and other communist-bloc nations.

The two foreign ministers will discuss an early meeting of the two countries' cabinet ministers, which will be the 15th such gathering of ministers, but will mark the first under the new leadership of the two countries—President No Tae-u of South Korea and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan.

No and Takeshita met on Feb. 25, No's inauguration day, for the first summit talks between the two.

The ministry said other agenda items awaiting the two foreign ministers will include details on revitalizing the projected exchanges of youths, students and teachers.

The chronic trade imbalance which favors Japan and improvements in the legal status of Korean residents in Japan are also agenda items.

The two foreign ministers are also expected to discuss the future of Min Hong-ku, a former North Korean army sergeant, who fled from North Korea aboard a Japanese freighter in 1983 seeking political asylum in Japan.

Subsequently, North Korea held crew members of the Japanese freighter in captivity when the ship called at a North Korean port on its next voyage.

Min was tried as a stowaway by a Japanese court and was released from prison last year on parole.

The ministry said Japanese Foreign Minister Uno will fly into Seoul on Sunday to attend the conference on the following day. After the meeting, Uno will pay courtesy calls on President No and Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae.

The Japanese foreign minister will return to Tokyo on Monday after an inspection tour of Olympic facilities, the ministry said.

Government To Encourage Exports to Japan

*SK170147 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—In an effort to rectify Korea's chronic trade deficits with Japan, the government plans to encourage the nation's top eight general trading firms to increase their export volume to Japan to one-fifth of the nation's total Japan-bound exports projected for this year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Thursday.

The combined exports to Japan by the top eight trading firms accounted for 11.1 percent of the nation's total exports to Japan in 1986 and 17.2 percent in 1987.

The ministry plans to hold a regular meeting on a monthly and quarterly basis with the general trading firms in an effort to formulate a long-range strategy for advancing further into the Japanese market.

The ministry will also arrange for 26 export-related organizations in Korea including the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) to set up a separate task force to supervise Korea's exports to Japan.

In 1987, Korea's deficit in its trade with Japan totaled 5.22 billion U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis. Korea's imports from Japan last year reached 13.65 billion dollars, accounting for about 33 percent of the nation's total imports.

Trade Minister Leaves for FRG Conference

*SK170253 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 88 p 9*

[Text] Trade-Industry Minister An Kyong-wha left here yesterday for the sixth Informal Meeting of Trade Ministers scheduled for March 18-20 in Constance, West Germany.

An was accompanied by Assistant Trade-Industry Minister Kim Chol-su and five other officials.

In the meeting, a spokesman said, Korea will call on advanced nations to halt the ever-mounting market-opening pressure and protectionism.

An will urge participating representatives to make all-out efforts to help the Uruguay Round get rolling and find settlements in the four-year negotiating period, the spokesman said.

In the meeting, the sixth of its kind since the 1984 Washington meeting, some 25 trade ministers and high-ranking officials from 25 countries and the GATT will participate, a ministry spokesman said.

Participants in the meeting will include U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter; De Clercq, EC commissioner; and other trade ministers from Japan, Canada, West Germany, Australia and France.

Also attending will be trade ministers from 11 developing nations, including Thailand, Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina and Nigeria, he said.

In 1986, Seoul hosted the fourth meeting.

High on its agenda will be the issue of market opening of agricultural, safeguard and service sector in the meeting which will check the progress of the Uruguay Round declaration, the spokesman said.

He said that Korean delegation will strongly advocate the successful settlement of the Uruguay Round which will strengthen the multilateral trade system, overcoming the protectionism.

Paper Urges Repatriation of Sakhalin Koreans
SK170041 Seoul *THE KOREA HERALD* in English dd Mar 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Koreans in Sakhalin"]

[Text] Encouraging signs have emerged from the Soviet Union and Japan on the fate of Koreans stranded in Sakhalin for the past four decades and more. We hope those signs will evolve into practical actions to enable visits and immigration to their motherland.

Some 43,000 Koreans are known to be living in the isolated island in the northern Pacific under the control of the Soviet Union. Most of them were taken there as members of a work corps recruited and forcibly mobilized by the Japanese colonial authorities during World War II.

Since the end of the Pacific War they have been denied the right to visit or return for permanent immigration in Korea. It was an extreme case of inhumanitarian treatment of civilians displaced against their will.

The Japanese government is primarily responsible for failing to take adequate measures to allow them to come to Korea either temporarily or permanently as they choose. They took them there for forced labor and then left them uncared for after Japan lost the war.

Of late, a top Soviet Red Cross official expressed a rather liberal and sympathetic attitude toward the fate of Koreans in Sakhalin. His statement was endorsed by a Soviet Foreign Ministry official to the effect that Korean expatriates would be allowed to visit Korea via Japan.

Several Japanese Dietmen are also working hard to influence the Moscow government through the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo to expedite the immigration of Korean residents in Sakhalin to Korea. A long cherished

dream of those forsaken will come true when they can visit here as they wish. It is one of the major humanitarian issues of the world to give Koreans in Soviet-held territory the right to come home.

Talks Begin on Australian Extradition Treaty
SK170139 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
17 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Korea and Australia will hold a working-level meeting here today through Monday to conclude a treaty on criminal extradition, the first such pact to be signed by Korea with a foreign nation.

The conclusion of the agreement is expected to help the two countries suppress international criminal attempts ahead of the Seoul Olympics, officials said.

Kim Sae-tae, director-general for international organizations and treaty affairs in the Foreign Ministry, will lead the Korean delegation, while Herman Woltring, 1st assistant secretary for criminal law and law enforcement bureau of Australia's Attorney General's Department will head the Australian delegation.

The government plans to conclude a similar treaty with Paraguay next month.

Government officials yesterday revealed that extraditable offences will be those which are punishable by one year's imprisonment or a heavier penalty under laws of both countries.

In case the request for extradition relates to a person sentenced to imprisonment by a court of the requesting country, extradition is to be offered only if at least four months of the sentence remains to be served.

They said, however, that "political offenders" will not be extraditable.

An attack on a head of state or a head of government or his family member as well as genocidal crimes will not be recognized as political offences.

If the agreement is signed by the two countries, it has to be ratified by the respective legislatures before coming into effect.

If the request for extradition proves to be aimed at punishing a person because of his or her nationality, it can be refused.

In addition, requests for extradition for an offense under military law are not obliged to be accepted, the officials revealed.

They added that a criminal extradited from Australia cannot be executed even if the criminal has earlier been sentenced to death by a Korean court because Australia does not have the death penalty.

The territory of a contracting country will be defined as that under the jurisdiction of the contracting country such as air space, territorial waters and vessels and aircraft registered in that contracting country.

Sweden Considers Closing Pyongyang Embassy
SK170525 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
17 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Stockholm, (Reuter)—Sweden is considering closing its embassy in Pyongyang because of North Korea's failure to pay back an 800-million-crown (\$135 million) loan, Swedish newspapers reported on Wednesday.

The Foreign ministry confirmed that North Korea had defaulted on the repayments but declined to say what retaliatory measures were being considered.

"We are very impatient with them and will definitely have to take some sort of action if they don't pay up," a ministry spokesman said. "But for obvious reasons I can't tell you what we'll do."

Although Sweden has rescheduled the debt several times, North Korea has been unable to pay any significant amount since it signed the agreement with Sweden in 1976.

Neutral Sweden was the first Western country to recognize North Korea in 1973. It opened an embassy there and Swedish firms lined up for business in the newly-created republic.

KAL To Expand, Seek U.S. Accord's Revision
SK170217 Seoul YONHAP in English 0207 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Korean Air (KAL) of South Korea will begin new air routes to five cities abroad this year, the transportation ministry reported Thursday.

KAL will begin flight services on the Seoul-Toronto-Vancouver, Seoul-London, Seoul-Chicago, Pusan-Nagoya and Cheju-Nagoya routes this year, increasing the number of cities it covers to 29 in 17 foreign nations, according to the ministry.

The ministry plans for KAL to increase its flights to and from Japan from the current 95 per week to 129, those to and from the United States from the current 31 to 33 flights, and those to and from Europe from the current six to seven flights.

With the additional flights, KAL will fly European air routes every day and will be able to meet the increasing demand on the Korea-Japan routes.

The transportation ministry and foreign ministry will push ahead with efforts to conclude air agreements with Mexico and Pakistan this year, while seeking to revise unfair air agreements with the United States.

Briefs

RDP Names Policymaker

The Reunification Democratic Party yesterday named Rep. Cho Hong-nae its chief policymaker. Cho succeeds Rep. Kim Wan-tae who bolted from the party Tuesday and is likely to join the ruling Democratic Justice Party.
[Text] [SK170237 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Mar 88 p 2]

Burma

Report on Third Day People's Assembly Session
BK161419 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Text] The sixth meeting of the Fourth People's Assembly of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma continued for the third day this morning at 1000 in the conference hall of the People's Assembly Building. It was attended by 480 People's Assembly representatives headed by U San Yu, president and chairman of the State Council.

This morning's session was chaired by U Aung Maung, representative of Magwe Division's Saw Township constituency, while U Aung Khin Tint, director general of the People's Assembly Office, officiated as secretary of the meeting.

As the meeting began, the presiding chairman announced that of the 482 eligible representatives 480 were present, constituting 99.59 percent attendance. He then declared the validity of the meeting and announced it open.

Ten questions raised by Assembly representatives were answered by U Min Gaung, minister of home and religious affairs; U Sein Ya, minister of transport and communications; U Maung Maung Win, minister of livestock breeding and fisheries; U Than Nyunt, minister of agriculture and forests; Major General Myint Lwin, minister of construction; and U Tun Way, minister of health.

Next, seven Assembly representatives discussed and supported the 1988 Economic Plan Production and Services Objectives Bill and the Report on the Financial, Economic, and Social Conditions of the State in 1988-89 submitted to the People's Assembly by the Council of Ministers. The chairman of the meeting then announced that a date would be set aside for the Council of Ministers to respond to the discussions and the People's Assembly to decide on the matter. The meeting was then briefly recessed.

When the meeting resumed in the afternoon, five Assembly representatives discussed and supported the Report of the Council of People's Justices that was submitted to the Assembly on the first day. The chairman of the meeting later announced that a date would be set aside for the Council of People's Justices to reply to the discussions and to decide on the report.

Next, five Assembly representatives discussed and supported the Report of the Council of People's Attorneys. After the discussions, the chairman of the meeting announced that a date would be set aside for the Council of People's Attorneys to reply to the discussions on the report.

Later, two Assembly representatives discussed and supported the Bill Amending the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law and the Bill Amending the 1974 Drugs Rules submitted by the Council of Ministers. The meeting ended at 1500 in the afternoon after the chairman of the meeting announced that the Assembly would be asked to decide on the bills on 17 March.

'Drastic' Decision Made To Import Oil
BK160050 Hong Kong AFP in English 2313 GMT
15 Mar 88

[Text] Rangoon, March 15 (AFP)—Burma has decided to import crude oil in a drastic change of policy for the isolationist country under socialist rule since 1962.

Premier Maung Maung Kha told a budget session of the People's Assembly on Monday that Burma, whose crude production has dropped to some 15,000 barrels a day from 25,000 two years ago, would begin to import crude for immediate needs.

Oil sector sources said BHP Oil Co. of Australia had been contracted to deliver 114,000 metric tons of crude at just over 20 U.S. dollars per barrel.

Mr Maung Maung Kha also said that measures were being taken to replace oil products with natural gas while long-term plans were being made to rehabilitate old oil wells and explore for new ones with foreign financial and technological assistance.

Finance Minister Tun Tin told the same session that Burma had a foreign debt of \$4 billion and needed urgent relief to enable it to boost production and revive growth, which he said was 2.2 percent last year.

Mr Tun Tin said Burma expected such assistance from being listed a least developed country [LDC] by the United Nations in December. LDC status brings certain benefits, including an increase in foreign grants and a write-off of debts.

"Burma was able to service her external debt regularly up till last year and, in spite of a significant drop in export earnings this year, we are, with difficulty, continuing to meet this obligation," Mr Tun Tin said.

Burma ran into debt as a result of loans taken to launch long-term development projects, but servicing has been hampered by the country's trade deficit. Imports amounted to \$588 million last year while export earnings were estimated at \$353 million, the minister said.

Cambodia

Ministry 'Condemns' PRC Acts Against SRV BK171305 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1215 GMT 17 Mar 88

[“Condemnation of Chinese Provocations Against Vietnam”—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 17 Mar (SPK)—In a statement made public today, the PRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs severely condemned the Chinese armed provocations against Vietnam near the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago.

After recalling hostile acts committed by Chinese authorities since the beginning of the year near Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago, particularly their attacks of 14 March on two Vietnamese cargo ships cited in the 14 March statement of the SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the statement stressed:

Stifling the protest of the SRV people and Government and the deep concern of public opinion, especially opinion in the coastal countries of the Eastern Sea, Chinese authorities continue to intensify provocations of Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

These acts and obstinate attitude of Chinese authorities follow other provocative activities, such as military maneuvers, planting poles along the maritime border, and violations of Vietnam's northern border regions. Such acts have always been part of their great-Han expansionist designs. These acts run counter to the general trend toward peaceful coexistence and the good-neighborly spirit between countries in the region and in the world. Far from responding to the goodwill and constructive proposals of the SRV Government to normalize relations between Vietnam and China, these acts run counter to the aspiration of the peoples in the region, including the Chinese people, and further strain the situation in Asia.

The PRK forcefully condemns these overt and premeditated provocations of the Chinese authorities and demands that they cease their hostile and expansionist acts without delay. It voices total support for the 14 March statement of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Cambodian Government and people reaffirm their militant solidarity with, and firm support for, the just struggle of the heroic fraternal Vietnamese people in defense of their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for all the consequences of their hostile acts, the statement said in conclusion.

Party Directive on Anniversaries Issued BK170329 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Directive of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission on the 33d anniversary of the founding of the LPRP and the ninth anniversary of the signing of the PRK-LPDR agreement on economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation—no date given]

[Text] This year we will celebrate the 33d anniversary of the founding of the LPRP—dating from 22 March 1955 to 22 March 1988—and the ninth anniversary of the signing of the PRK-LPRP agreement on economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation—dating from 22 March 1979 to 22 March 1988—at a time when the revolution in the three Indochinese countries is increasing their frontline socialist revolutionary advantage in Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, the Cambodian revolutionary forces are being mobilized to successfully carry out the joint strategic tasks and three revolutionary goals as well as the first 5-year socioeconomic restoration and development program presented by the Fifth Party Congress.

To organize the celebrations of these two historic days properly, the Central Propaganda and Education Commission is issuing the following instructions:

I. Desideratum and significance:

1. To ensure that our entire party, people, and armed forces more clearly grasp the immense victories won by the Lao revolution under the leadership of the LPRP and the harmonious relations between the KPRP and the LPRP, which were born out of the same source, that is, the Indochinese Communist Party.
2. To heighten determination to actively preserve and foster the strategic alliance and the bonds of special solidarity and friendship among the three Indochinese countries in general and between Cambodia and Vietnam in particular; enhance the all-round relations and cooperation between Cambodia and Laos; and pay attention to the provinces, districts, and communes along the borders of the two countries.
3. To heighten the sense of revolutionary vigilance; counterattack the maneuvers of the Beijing hegemonist-expansionists, colluding with the U.S. imperialists and international reactionaries, which aim at opposing and destroying the revolution in the three Indochinese countries and undermining the Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos strategic solidarity.
4. To further give vigorous support to the fraternal Lao people's just and correct struggle to solve their border disputes and defend their territorial integrity and their stance to coexist peacefully with Thailand.

To acclaim and highly value the efforts made by the Lao party, armed forces, and people in order to successfully implement the second 5-year plan and goals for socio-economic development presented by the Fourth LPRP Congress.

II. Organizational measures:

1. The provinces adjacent to the Lao border, such as Preah Vihear, Stung Treng, and Ratanakiri, must organize get-togethers to mark these two anniversaries on 22 March 1928.
2. The SPK, newspapers, and radio and television stations must organize propaganda programs between 21 and 24 March 1988 based on the above desideratum and significance.
3. The Phnom Penh Municipal Party Committee in cooperation with the Cambodia-Laos Friendship Association, the KUFNCD National Council, the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Commission, the Foreign Ministry, and the Ministry of Information and Culture must organize a meeting in Phnom Penh to mark these two anniversaries on 22 March 1988.

The Central Propaganda and Education Commission hopes that all provinces, cities, central ministries and offices, and all units will carry out their activities according to this directive with good results and send reports on the outcome of the celebrations to the Central Propaganda and Education Commission before 20 April 1988 for summing up and forwarding to the party's Secretariat.

Slogans:

1. Vigorously Welcome the 33d Anniversary of the LPRP—from 22 March 1955 to 22 March 1988!
2. Long Live the Bonds of Solidarity of the Parties, Armies, and Peoples of the Three Countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos!
3. President Ho Chi Minh, Founder of the Indochinese Communist Party, Always Lives in the Cause of Our Revolution!
4. Long Live the Glorious LPRP!
5. Long Live the Glorious KPRP!

Banteay Meanchey Commander on KPRAF Successes
*BK170108 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1200 GMT 16 Mar 88*

[“Statement” to station correspondent by (Koy Daok), commander of Banteay Meanchey Province Armed Forces, on attacking the enemy and defending and building localities in the province—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On 1 February 1988, guided by informants in Phnum Srok District and in cooperation with (?Vietnamese) forces, the (Peam Treng) commune militia unit [words indistinct] and Phnum Srok District Armed Forces were able to crush the enemy soldiers in a timely manner. In the attack we killed 35 enemy troops, including a regiment commander, and took 7 others prisoner. We also seized 32 assorted

weapons, including 22 AK's, an SKS gun, 6 B-45's, a B-40, a B-41, and an RPD gun; a compass; and some materiel. [passage omitted]

Hun Sen Addresses Agriculture Review Session

*BK171229 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1115 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 17—A four-day meeting was held here recently by the Ministry of Agriculture to review agricultural production in 1987 and set forth the 1988 plan. It was attended by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen and other senior officials.

At the meeting, the participants heard a report on the situation of Kampuchea's agriculture in 1987. The report said that last monsoon rice cropping peasants throughout the country achieved rice planting on only 73 percent of the plan due to the unfavourable weather, especially the long spell of severe drought. The cultivated area marked a decrease of 192,970 ha as against the monsoon rice cropping in 1986.

However, the report said, the rice acreage of Kompong Thom, Kampot, Stung Treng and Mondolkiri Provinces and the city of Phnom Penh was larger than that of the 1986's monsoon season.

[Words indistinct] department under the Ministry of Agriculture helped the peasants plough by tractors 201,086 ha of land, 30,000 ha more than the previous year.

Subsidiary food and industrial crops in the last monsoon covered 120,000 ha, 3,300 ha more than the corresponding period of 1986. However, because of the severe drought, the subsidiary food and industrial crops yielded unsatisfactory output. Areas under pepper were expanded to 105 ha, topping the plan by 9 percent.

In animal husbandry, the report further said, the peasants kept more than 2.5 million head of cattle, surpassing the yearly plan by two percent or an increase of 120,000 head over 1985. The cattle population included more than 1.34 million head of draught animals. Besides they raised nearly 1.5 million pigs and more than seven million poultry.

Forest exploitation was boosted with 157,400 cubic metres of timber, topping the yearly target by four percent. Last year, Kampuchean fisherman netted 82,000 tons of sea and river fish and shrimps, representing 91 percent of the plan.

In his closing speech, Hun Sen, who is also Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, called on the Kampuchean peasants to strive ever harder to achieve the 1988 plan of putting 1.96 million hectares under rice. He underlined that the primary measure to be taken to attain the target

is to make adequate investment in building and upgrading irrigation projects so as to ensure enough water for rice farming even in drought-stricken areas. The other measures, Hun Sen went on, are to expand cultivated land, apply intensive farming, practice crop multiplication, including cash and industrial crops, both short-term and perennial, and boost the exploitation of forests, sea and river with a view to developing the national economy in various fields of agriculture.

At the meeting, four provinces—Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom, Takeo and Stung Treng—were awarded the rotary banners of the Council of Ministers for their outstanding achievements in agricultural production.

The Departments of Forest and Wildlife, Water Conservancy, Meteorology and Hydrology were awarded laureate banners of the Ministry of Agriculture; and many outstanding units and individuals were presented with congratulatory letters of the ministry.

SPK Cited on Hun Sen Message to Sihanouk
BK170844 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0500 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] The SPK press agency of the Phnom Penh regime reported that Hun Sen, prime minister of the Hanoi-supported Phnom Penh regime, informed Samdech Norodom Sihanouk that Hun Sen was prepared to meet again and resume talks at any time to bring a solution to the Cambodian conflict.

Last February, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk scrapped his planned third round of talks with Hun Sen, which was scheduled to be held in Pyongyang in April, because Hun Sen had stated that he could not accept the samdech's demands, particularly the dissolution of the PRK prior to holding free elections. The samdech announced the suspension of future talks just a few weeks after his second meeting with Hun Sen in France. The samdech said, however, that he wished to meet with representatives of Vietnam, if Vietnam invited him, and that he would not object to Hun Sen's participation. Later on, the samdech said that he would agree to resume talks with Hun Sen by the end of this year, provided Hun Sen first brings proposals that might lead to a lasting and satisfactory solution to the Cambodian problem.

Sihanouk Source Says Resumed Talks 'Unlikely'
BK170810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT 17 Mar 88

[By Jacques Michel Tondre]

[Excerpts] Bangkok, March 17 (AFP)—An early resumption of peace talks between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen is unlikely, a source close to the Cambodian resistance leader said here Thursday.

A message from Mr. Hun Sen to the prince saying he was prepared to meet him again "and resume our talks at any time" was meaningless unless Phnom Penh had "something concrete to offer," the source said.

That did not appear to be the case, as Vietnamese troops in Cambodia to prop up their client regime in Phnom Penh were steadily reinforcing their positions with unfaltering military assistance from the Soviet Union, he said.

Mr. Hun Sen's message to Prince Sihanouk was published Wednesday by Phnom Penh's official news agency SPK, a day after he returned from a visit to Hanoi to attend the funeral of Prime Minister Pham Hung. [passage omitted]

The source in Bangkok said the attempted negotiations in December and January had shown that Mr. Hun Sen lacked elbow-room to negotiate since the pro-Vietnamese leader had to refer to Hanoi for any decision.

He said the prince had made it clear that he was only willing to reopen talks with the Phnom Penh administration provided Mr. Hun Sen first presented satisfactory proposals for an equitable solution to the nine-year old conflict.

The Khmer Rouge issue had become more acute as the pro-Beijing resistance faction was now taking secret steps to enable it to return to power in Phnom Penh once Vietnamese forces had withdrawn from the country, which it has pledged to do by 1990, he said.

The only solution to the issue lay in Prince Sihanouk's proposal to set up an international peace keeping force (IPKF) that would prevent the Khmer Rouge from retaking absolute power the day the last Vietnamese troops leave Cambodia, the source contended.

But the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh were still opposing the idea, while Hanoi was not showing any intention to meet with Prince Sihanouk, he said.

Briefs

Soviet Lecturers Delegation

A delegation of CPSU Central Committee lecturers led by Comrade (Vladimir Mazontsev), chief of the CPSU lecturers group, arrived in the PRK on the morning of 15 March to give lectures on the reform of the CPSU's domestic and foreign policies. The delegation was greeted at Pochentong Airport by Comrade Nim Thot, vice chairman of the Central Committee's Propaganda and Education Commission, and several other cadres from the Commission. [Text] [BK17075 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Mar 88]

Indonesia

New Guidelines on State Policy Outlined BK170405 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0338 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 17 (ANTARA/OANA)—The development of defence and security in Indonesia is implemented in an integrated manner and in stages, in accordance with the condition and the capability of the nation and the state, through the endeavors to consolidate defence in the context of realizing the repellence capability of the nation's defence and security forces, it is stipulated in the new (1988) Guidelines of State Policy (GBHN).

The new GBHN was adopted by the recent general session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), convening here from 1 to 11 March.

It further says that the repellence capability of the nation's defence and security forces is being realized in the form of the consolidation of territorial development and of the capability of all the components in the nation's defence and security and is buttressed by the resoluteness and willingness of the people to engage in the provision of assistance to the defence of the nation and by the oneness of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia (ABRI) with the people.

Each investment made in the development of defence and security, it goes on, must be able to substantiate the usefulness that it can yield and that the useful period is long enough and to the furthest extent be able to generate extra usefulness. Furthermore, GBHN says, any endeavor in the implementation of the nation's defence and security, it is imperative that, in order to encounter emergency situations, effectiveness is assured at all times.

According to the new GBHN, the nation's defence and security are implemented through the system of defence and security of the entire population, encompassing the entire capacity of the people and the nation and is organized, prepared and mobilized in an integrated and coordinated manner in the form of armed resistance as well as in other forms of resistance based on the conviction on one's own strength and the spirit of not ever relenting to surrender.

For that purpose, it says, it is necessary that the Pancasila ideology and inherited sacred values of the nation and the essence of the oneness of ABRI with the people, must at all times be firmly implanted in the soul and mind of the whole Indonesian people, thereby making it possible to realize the nation's defence and security forces that is invincible with a solid mental resilience. [sentence as received] In the context of implementing the defence and security of the nation, the new GBHN stresses that every citizen has the right and obligation to

participate in the efforts of providing assistance to the defence and security of the nation and this is to be carried out with due consideration to the principles of justice and equity.

In this connection, it goes on, it is necessary to promote the consciousness of the rights, obligations and honour that are entailed for participating in the defence of the nation, by way of implanting, in the earliest possible phase of life, the love for the country, the awareness of living in the society, in the Indonesian nation with the citizenship of the state of Indonesia, the conviction of the Pancasila as ideology of the state, and the willingness to put self-interest aside for the sake of the nation.

In the meantime, ABRI, as the principal component in the nation's defence and security, must be capable of carrying out punitive and preventive action against any threat.

In the situation when security and peace is prevalent, it says, a relatively small, yet effective and efficient force of ABRI is maintained, that has high quality standards and has a high mobility and within a relatively short time, can be dispatched to all corners of the country, and in emergency situations can be rapidly developed in accordance with considerations regarding the extent of the territory covered, the number of the population and the size of the national wealth that needs to be safeguarded.

In addition, it goes on, ABRI also undertakes its function as a socio-political force.

The efforts to develop ABRI as a socio-political force is aimed at increasing its capability in carrying out its role as the conduits for the stability and dynamic growth of society, in order that it can actively participate in the national development and in the endeavors to strengthen national resiliency.

The contribution made by ABRI is a token of its dedication, in the context of utilizing the capability of ABRI in supporting national development, the new GBHN stresses.

Suharto To Announce New Cabinet 21 March BK170725 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Excerpt] President Suharto, accompanied by Vice President Sudharmono, will officially announce the new cabinet lineup at the Merdeka Palace at 1930 west Indonesia time [1230 GMT] on 21 March. Junior Minister Mordiono, who is also the cabinet secretary, said this after being received by President Suharto this morning at Jal Cendana, Jakarta. [passage omitted]

Laos

Thai Delegation Arrives in Vientiane for Talks

*BK170655 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0500 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] At the invitation of the Lao side, the delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, under secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry, with 12 other delegates, 16 accompanying officials, and 45 reporters, arrived at the Wattai Airport in Vientiane at 0845 this morning by a special DC-8 aircraft of the Royal Thai Air Force to continue the talks with the delegation of the LPDR Government to seek ways to resolve the conflict at the border between Laos' Boten District in Sayaboury Province and Thailand's Chat Trakan District in Phitsanulok Province.

At the Wattai Airport, the Thai Government delegation was welcomed by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the LPA General Political Department, and members of the Lao negotiating team. Niran Phanuphong, Thai Ambassador to Laos, and the Thai Embassy staff members were also on hand to welcome the delegation.

M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi gave an interview to our national radio correspondent on his feelings as leader of the Thai Government delegation to hold talks with the Lao side in Vientiane.

[Begin recording] [Kasemsamoson in Thai] Personally, I am particularly happy. This is because I have never had a chance to visit Laos. This is my first visit. Therefore, personally I am particularly happy. Second, the persons who are accompanying me here have familiar faces. They are old friends of His Excellency Thonglai and his party who recently paid a visit to Bangkok. We would like to thank him for inviting us to come here to hold consultations with his excellency in a brotherly fashion on certain issues of mutual interest or problems which need to be settled, including various other constructive matters. There are not only negative issues. There are positive signs that we can cooperate with and assist each other for mutual benefit. In fact, coming here is like going to work at my office; I flew for 1 hour from Bangkok to here, and yet it takes me more than an hour to drive from my house to my office in the Bangkok traffic.

[Station reporter in Lao] (?In your opinion), will the negotiations this time be successful or not?

[Kasemsamoson in Thai] I think with a friend like His Excellency Thonglai, it will be successful. [laughter] I think we can still continue the talks. I think it is a good thing that we can still hold talks. The last time, we held them in Bangkok. I come here to continue the talks with (?him). [end recording]

On the same occasion, Brig Gen Thonglai Kommasit also told the reporters about the hopeful outcome of the negotiations.

[Begin Thonglai recording] I cannot say now. It depends on the consultations between both sides. But it is hoped that in the negotiations this time, the two sides (?understand each other better than before). Each side will exchange views [words indistinct] and methods to seek ways to solve the problems in a (?sincere) and frank manner on the basis of the spirit of brotherliness. [end recording]

At 1000, the first round of the negotiations was held at the meeting room of the Lan Xang Hotel.

The Lao side's negotiating team is composed of 10 delegates, namely, Brig Gen Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the LPA General Political Department, head; and Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy minister attached to the office of the Council of Ministers, deputy head; together with 8 other delegates—Khamphan Simmalavong, LPDR ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand; Thongsi Inthaphon, director of the Administrative Affairs Research Department attached to the office of the Council of Ministers; Somchan Thawikham, head of the General Department attached to the office of the Council of Ministers; Lieutenant Colonel Sisa-at, head of the office of the Interior Ministry; Phanthong Phommahasai, acting director of the Information Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Bounkeut Sangsomsak, deputy director of the International Organizations Department attached to the Foreign Affairs Ministry; (Bounthong Vongsali), attached to the International Organizations Department of the Foreign Ministry; and (Li Soutthavilai), cadre attached to the Foreign Ministry.

The Thai negotiating team is composed of 13 members, namely, M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, as head, and Suwit Sutthanukun, secretary general of the National Security Council; Gen Phat Akkhanibut, deputy Armed Forces Chief of Staff; Somphon Klinphongsa, deputy under secretary of the Interior Ministry for security; Montri Chalichan, deputy under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Lieutenant General Wichian (Sangphraiwan), director of the Military Survey Department; Lieutenant General Charan Kunlwanit, military and political affairs coordinator of the Foreign Ministry; Piya Chakkraphak, attached to the office of the the Prime Minister's Secretariat; Niran Phanuphong, Thai ambassador to Laos; M.R. Thep Thewakun, director general of the Political Department; Sarot Chawanirat, director of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry; Sarasin Wiraphon, deputy director general of the Political Department; and (Phansit Kanchanakunchon), deputy director general of the Treaty and Legal Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Delegation Leader Comments

*BK170639 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
0530 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] The government delegation for negotiations with Laos over the dispute at Ban Romklao arrived in Vientiane this morning. The delegation is led by Foreign

Ministry Permanent Secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi. Speaking to correspondents en route, M.R. Kasemsamoson said that at the negotiations Thailand will propose Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Sonthon Khongsomphong as head of the Thai side of the commission for border demarcation, and he felt that Laos will accept the nomination, as border demarcation will be binding. Thailand feels that the entire length of the border should be demarcated to prevent future disputes. He said Thailand also wants a revival of the joint Thai-Lao Cooperation Committee. Both Thailand and Laos are aware of the importance of the committee and should arrange its meeting to ensure cooperation that will help prevent confrontation.

M.R. Kasemsamoson said that at the negotiations Thailand will continue to adhere to the Siam-French Treaty of 1907 and related maps because the French used these maps to set the boundary. Because the Indochinese countries became independent, they should also recognize the maps. He said negotiations based on the fraternal relationship between Thailand and Laos will lead to a successful settlement of problems.

Suwit Suthanukun, National Security Council secretary general, added that, based on sincerity and similar characteristics of the Thai and Lao people, negotiations should proceed well.

First Round of Talks Held

*BK170753 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0528 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] The first round of talks between the delegation of the LPDR Government and the delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand began at 1000 today at the meeting room of the Lan Xang Hotel in Vientiane and was adjourned at 1145. The Lao side was led by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit and the Thai side by M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi.

After the adjournment of the morning negotiating session, Phanthong Phommahasai, acting director of the Information Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and spokesman of the Lao Government delegation, told the press about the atmosphere of the talks this morning:

[Begin recording] I would like to tell you that the delegations of the Lao and Thai Governments met for one round this morning in an atmosphere of brotherliness. They exchanged views in a frank manner. Everything went smoothly and the meeting recessed as scheduled. After having lunch together, the delegations of both sides will resume negotiations in the afternoon to continue further consultations with a view to amicably settling the problems between the brotherly countries. [end recording]

The afternoon session of the negotiations will begin at 1500 at the meeting room of the Lan Xang Hotel.

Results of Past Border Talks Reviewed

*BK170955 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 16 Mar 88*

[Feature: "In the Interests of the Lao and Thai Peoples"]

[Text] The two consultative meetings between high-level Lao and Thai military delegations in Bangkok and Vientiane were satisfactorily successful. The improvement and strengthening of good relations between the Lao and Thai peoples, and particularly, the cease-fire agreement signed by both sides in Bangkok on 17 February are of special significance because they have not only ended the bloodshed and killing between Lao regional armed forces of Boten District and Thai soldiers, but they have also revived the good neighborly, fraternal relations between the Lao and Thai peoples, thus further strengthening peace and stability in the region and bitterly defeating the reactionary forces' schemes to step up confrontation and escalate the armed conflict between Laos and Thailand. The latest meeting between the Lao and Thai Government delegations has registered another progressive step. Both sides have agreed to extend the validity of the said cease-fire agreement as stated in the joint communique dated 4 March 1988.

All this is a victory for both the Lao and Thai peoples, who have always tried their utmost to enhance the glorious tradition of Lao-Thai relations, and to safeguard and promote good neighborly, fraternal relations between Laos and Thailand so that they are characterized by friendship and durable peace.

Regarding the great victory of the Lao and Thai peoples, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the party Central Committee and our beloved and respected leader, in a speech at the celebration of the victory of Boten District, Sayaboury Province, said: We would like to wholeheartedly hail the Thai people of all strata and classes and Thai political circles, particularly the brotherly northeastern I-san people, for uniting, cooperating, and coordinating with our people in the common struggle to preserve the neighborly and brotherly relations of friendship between the Lao and Thai peoples by checking together the reactionary forces' scheme to create an atmosphere of tension and hostility between the peoples of both countries. We would like to hail a number of figures in Thai political circles for understanding the situation and working with us to find measures to end the clash that caused unnecessary bloodshed between the Lao and Thai peoples.

In any event, the brilliant victory of the Lao and Thai peoples has infuriated a number of bad elements in Thailand. They have been making efforts to create hostility against Laos and to obstruct expansion of the said victory of the Lao and Thai peoples. Even worse, some senior Thai politicians have said that it was not right to hold talks seeking a peaceful solution to the Lao-Thai problem, adding that Thai forces should cross the Mekong River and torch Vientiane.

Moreover, last week, only a few days after the end of the first meeting between the Lao and Thai government delegations, Thai Foreign Ministry officials in Bangkok distorted the facts about the actual success of the meetings, an act that might not be good for the next meeting, which is to be held soon in Vientiane.

The above-mentioned facts call for the Thai and Lao people, as well as officials of both countries who are directly responsible for promoting the success of the effort to solve the Lao-Thai problem peacefully, to increase friendly and brotherly unity and heighten their sense of self-vigilance to foil in an even more drastic manner the scheme of the bad elements who want to obstruct the path to the improvement of friendship, peace, and brotherly relations between Laos and Thailand so that greater and more important success and victory may be ensured for the next meeting for the benefit of the legitimate interests of the Lao and Thai peoples.

Cooperation Talks With SRV Open in Vientiane
BK171050 Vientiane KPL in English
0919 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 17 (OANA-KPL)—The 11th session of the Lao-Vietnamese Commission for Economic, Cultural and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was opened here on March 16.

The Lao side, at the talks was headed by Inkong Mahavong, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, chairman of the Lao commission, and the Vietnamese side was led by Dang Thi, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam, chairman of the Vietnamese commission.

The session focussed its attention on the general assessment of the effectiveness of the bilateral economic, cultural and scientific-technical cooperation in the past years, particularly in the period of 1986-1987 a programme for cooperation in economic, cultural and scientific-technical field between Laos and Vietnam for 1988 and the more effective approach to this matter in accordance with the present restructuring policy in each country was also worked out.

Special attention was drawn to joint venture with the participation of economic units on the basis of mutual benefits.

The conference wound up its work on the same day.

Cooperation Accords Signed
BK171039 Vientiane KPL in English
0903 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 17 (KPL)—Nouhak Phoumsavanh, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, on March 16

received a delegation of the Vietnam-Laos Committee for Economic, Cultural, Scientific, Technological Cooperation led by its Chairman Dang Thi, who is also a member of the CPV CC.

During the cordial talk, the Lao vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers highly valued positive results obtained from the co-operation between the parties, governments and peoples of the two countries—the relations which continually expand in terms of quantity and quality. He also expressed hope that the committee will strive to further strengthen effective cooperation between the two countries on the basis of restructuring prevailing policy.

An agreement on Vietnam's grant and loans for 1988 was reached in the evening of the same day between the Committee for Economic, Cultural, Scientific, Technological Cooperation of the two countries.

The agreement spells out that during this period, Vietnam will help train Lao cadres, raise the quality of the bilateral cooperation, [and] provide Laos with experts in various fields. Vietnam will also continue to study the work in determining agricultural zones in Laos.

According to the agreement Laos and Vietnam will concentrate their efforts in building road No. 8 in the two countries. They are to continue their joint venture exploiting gypsum in Dong Hen and in processing wood.

The two sides also agreed upon the questions of widening cooperation among economic bases and localities.

Protocol on bilateral cooperation for 1988 was also signed on the same occasion by delegations of the two countries.

According to the protocol, both countries will widen their cooperation on production on the basis of mutual interests.

The signatories were, on the Lao side Inkong Mahavong, member of the LPRP CC, and chairman of the Committee and on the Vietnamese side Dang Thi.

The Vietnamese delegation left for home today ending its 2 day working visit in the Lao PDR.

Foreign Ministry Statement Supports SRV
BK171302 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Today, 17 March, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the LPDR issued a statement in support of the Foreign Ministry of the SRV as follows:

On 14 March 1988, the SRV Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that on the morning of 14 March, Chinese warships illegally operating in the waters of the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago overtly opened fire at

two Vietnamese freighters which were then on routine activity in the area of Gac Ma coral reefs of Sinh Ton (Sincowe) Island. The two Vietnamese ships were forced to fire back. At the same time, China turned black into white by alleging that the Vietnamese ships had committed armed provocations against the Chinese warships.

It is common knowledge that since January 1988 China has repeatedly sent its warships for armed provocation at the Chu Thap, Chau Vien, and a number of other reefs in the Sinh Ton in the Truong Sa Archipelago of Vietnam. In defiance of the protest by the Government of the SRV and the public concern in the world, most of all in the Southeast Asian countries, the above-mentioned blatant act has clearly exposed the Chinese authorities' dark design of violating Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity, seriously threatened the security of Vietnam, and has undermined peace, stability, and the trend of dialogue in Southeast Asia, in execution of their plot to expand in the East Sea.

The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the LPDR fully supported the statement of the Foreign Ministry of the SRV and called on China to respect Vietnam's sovereignty over the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelagoes and called on the Chinese authorities to urgently put an end to the armed provocations and withdraw their warships from the waters of Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago.

Further on Death of Deputy Defense Minister
*BK171101 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Bangkok, March 17 (AFP)—A helicopter crash in Laos has killed 24 people, including a deputy defence minister, a senior Thai Army officer said here Thursday.

Laos said Tuesday that Lieutenant-General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai had been killed in an aircraft accident while performing his duty but gave no further details.

The Thai Army officer, who asked not to be named, said the deputy defence minister and 23 other military personnel and civilians were killed when their Soviet-built MI-6 helicopter crashed near the Lao-Thai border Monday.

He quoted intelligence reports as saying the victims were on their way to Vientiane to attend a medal award ceremony for troops who had fought a recent border battle with Thailand.

He said they had boarded the aircraft in Boten, near the area where the border battle raged from December 15 to February 19 when a Thai-Lao ceasefire came into force.

The victims included 10 folk dancers and musicians and 2 journalists, he said.

Vientiane said a funeral ceremony for Lt.-Gen. Khampha would be held Thursday.

Leaders Pay Last Respects
*BK171115 Vientiane KPL in English
0912 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] Vientiane, March 17 (KPL)—The party and state leaders led by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR, on March 16 paid last tribute to Khampha Chaleunphonmisai, the late member of the party CC, deputy minister of defence, who died at an aircraft accident on March 14, 1988.

The party and state leaders at the mourning ceremony included Politburo members of the LPRP CC: Nouak Phoumsavan, Phoumi Vongvichit, Khamtai Siphandon, Phoun Sipaseut, Sisomphon Lovansai, Sisavat Keobounphan, Sali Vongkhamsoa, Maichantan Sengmani, Saman Vi-gnaket; alternate Politburo members: Oudom Khatthi-gna, Choummali Sai-gnason.

In an atmosphere stricken by grief over the great loss, the representatives of the ministries, state committees, state institution and of Vientiane Municipality paid their last tributes to Khampha Chaleunphonmisai.

Briefs

Returnees in Pursat Province

Phnom Penh, 14 Mar (SPK)—During the first 2 months of this year, 11 Pol Pot soldiers left their ranks to join the revolution in Pursat Province, 150 km northwest of Phnom Penh. The returnees brought with them 10 assorted weapons and a quantity of ammunition. In 1987, Pursat received 36 returnees, including 34 Pol Pot soldiers and 2 Son Sann soldiers, and 30 assorted weapons with ammunition. [Text] [BK141335 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1154 GMT 14 Mar 88]

Philippines

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister To Visit
*HK170827 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0800 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] The Soviet Embassy in Manila is preparing for the forthcoming visit to the country by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev from 22 to 26 March. According to the USSR Embassy, the visit aims to promote exchange of views among senior foreign officials on diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Soviet Union.

For details, here is Tony Valencia:

[Begin recording] Yuri Rykov, deputy minister of the USSR embassy in Manila, gave no details on the specific issues to be discussed during Rogachev's visit here, but assured that the subject of President Aquino's coming visit to the Soviet Union this year may be brought up.

At a news conference held this morning, Rykov said Rogachev's visit to Manila was aimed at establishing cordial relations among senior officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Soviet foreign service.

The 56 year-old Soviet diplomat is currently deputy minister for Asian and Pacific affairs. He has had a colorful career in his country's foreign service, starting as senior staff member at the USSR Embassy in the PRC from 1956 to 1961, and later moving on to his current position. [end recording]

To Meet With Aquino
HK170642 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 17 (AFP)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev will visit the Philippines capital March 22-26 for talks with President Corazon Aquino and other top officials, the Soviet Embassy said here Thursday.

Soviet Embassy spokesmen said they did not know if the talks would touch on the U.S. Clark Air Base and U.S. Subic Naval Base near here, whose future is due to be discussed by Washington and Manila starting April.

Mr. Rogachev will take up "international issues" along with the "regional situation and bilateral matters," the spokesmen said.

Moscow has been calling for the removal of the two U.S. bases, saying it would reciprocate with a reduction of its own forces in the region.

Mr. Rogachev will arrive from Bangkok as part of a Southeast Asian tour ending in Singapore, the embassy said.

His visit here is part of a regular exchange of consultations between Soviet and Philippine officials.

Mrs. Aquino has agreed in principle to visit Moscow but has set no date.

Peaceful Settlement of Spratlys Dispute Urged
HK170437 Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 17 (AFP)—The Philippine Government Thursday called on China and Vietnam to peacefully settle their naval conflict in the Spratly Islands, and warned both to stay off the portion of the archipelago claimed by Manila.

A Foreign Affairs Department statement said it "views with concern the activities of China and Vietnam in the South China Sea since some of these activities are taking place in Kalayaan, which is Philippine territory."

The Philippines calls eight islands in the Spratlys chain Kalayaan or Freedomland and has stationed marines on them for years.

A Filipino explorer, Tomas Cloma, claimed to have discovered the strategically-located islands in 1956.

"The department hopes and expects that the disputes concerning sovereignty over the Kalayaan islands can be settled peacefully, and that countries involved do not take unilateral action in violation of Philippine territory," the statement said.

It cited in particular what it said was China's construction of an "observing station" on a reef within the Kalayaan group, and military movements of both countries.

The statement also reminded Beijing of its agreement with Manila that any disputes over the islands would be settled "by peaceful means without resorting to the use or threat of force."

"The Philippines and Vietnam have a bilateral understanding that they will settle all disputes between them by peaceful means," it added.

Malaysia and Taiwan also claim parts or all of the Spratlys, a chain of some 500 small islands and reefs in the South China Sea some 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) from the Chinese coast and some 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Vietnam.

China and Vietnam said their ships exchanged fire in the Spratlys Monday. Each side has accused the other of firing first.

Beijing on Wednesday said there had been Chinese casualties in the incident, the first time either country had mentioned casualties.

Hanoi meanwhile said that three of its ships were still ablaze Wednesday with more than 70 crew on board, and that Chinese warships were preventing rescue vessels approaching.

Editorial Asks 'Fair Price' for U.S. Bases
HK170727 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 17 Mar 88 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Needs Bases More Than We Do"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has declared himself in favor of charging the Americans more for their continued use of the bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay.



The announcement is bound to raise quite a few hackles since it could be interpreted as meaning that the Philippine Government has decided to let these military facilities remain on Philippine Soil.

That would not be correct. For, lost somewhere in the fine print, is Manglapus' clarification that this increased payment should apply only to the unexpired portion of the bases agreement. That expiration is in 1992.

But, all these considerations aside, there is much merit in the arguments advanced by Secretary Manglapus.

Who will dispute his contention that the Americans need these bases more than we need them? America has global interests to protect, we don't. America has her external security to worry about, we don't.

Who will gainsay the fact that, compared with what America pays other countries for allowing military facilities on their soil—countries like Spain, Turkey and Egypt, to mention a few—what the Philippines receives yearly in the form of "aid", not rental, is a mere pittance.

Sometime next month, the bases agreement between the Philippines and the United States will be up for review. It would do well for the Philippine panel to remember all the points brought out by Secretary Manglapus. While we are deciding the fate of the bases, the least that we expect the Americans to do is to pay a fair price for the use of their facilities here. Let us not allow ourselves once again to be sweet-talked by the Americans.

Ramos Discusses Benefits Derived From Bases
HK170345 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos says that while the United States' facilities here have not directly benefitted the country for its internal security, the rental for the use of the bases has greatly helped modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Secretary Ramos aired this view during his weekly regular press conference in Camp Aguinaldo. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus had said earlier that Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base are not necessary for the defense of the Philippines. The defense chief also said that he was not just talking about the external defense of the country but the security of the Southeast Asian region. He said definitely there are benefits derived from our military agreements with the United States. He was apparently referring to the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Bases agreement which stipulates that the U.S. will pay the Philippines \$900 million for the use of the bases for a period of five years from 1985-89.

Bases Treaty Review To Exclude Labor Issue
HK171357 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1300 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Representatives of labor unions at the American bases will not be part of the panel that will review the military bases agreement in April. Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus explained that the bases' labor agreement will be discussed separately from the bases treaty itself.

Meanwhile, Labor Secretary Franklin Drilon is already consulting with leaders of Filipino workers' organizations at the bases in order to take their position into account.

Manglapus added that the forthcoming bases review will also deal with the country's \$27.5 billion foreign debt, the military's lack of modern equipment, and with other means for effective fighting of the insurgency.

Official Urges Ban on U.S. Scrap 'Dumping'
HK170933 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 17 Mar 88 p 6

[By correspondent Elmer Cato]

[Text] Angeles City—The Government should enact laws banning the dumping into the country of scrap and surplus materials from U.S. military bases in other countries, city officials said yesterday.

Angeles Vice Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan, made the call following reports that U.S. scrap and surplus materials being disposed in the country could be toxic or radiation contaminated.

Pamintuan told the CHRONICLE that the U.S. has been shipping its scrap and surplus materials from its military bases in Guam, Japan and Diego Garcia to the Philippines where these are sold to Filipino businessmen.

The materials, according to Pamintuan, include stainless steel, iron, chemicals, carton boxes, garments and even food spoils.

Some of these might be toxic or contaminated by radiation, Pamintuan warned as he revealed that even Japanese and Guamanian businessmen refused to accept these materials even for free.

According to him, this has forced the U.S. to ship these into the country where the materials are sold to local bidders in auctions being held twice a month in Clark and Subic bases.

"We should not be buying these highly priced materials. In fact, we should be the ones paid for helping them get rid of their garbage," Pamintuan said.

"A law should be passed to ship these items, particularly the radioactive one's, back to their point of origin," Pamintuan further said.

Sen. Heherson Alvarez, who was informed of the scrap disposal in the country, told reporters he will file the necessary communications to the appropriate government agencies.

He said the dumping could displace local industries.

Earlier, communist-led New People's Army rebels warned Manila-based Filipino businessmen against participating in the auctions of these materials.

The rebels, in a statement signed by one, Ka [Comrade] Alejandro of the Bataan-Pampanga command, warned Manila businessmen against entering Clark and Subic to participate in the biddings or to procure materials.

New BAYAN Movement Leader Interviewed
HK150857 Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK
in English 2 Mar 88 pp 3-7

[Interview by Benjamin Pimentel Jr with Zenaida Uy, secretary-general of Bayan, location, date not given—passages in boldface as published]

[Text] Zenaida Uy was elected secretary-general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) [New Nationalist Movement] last December. She replaced Leandro Alejandro, the federation's young secretary-general, who was gunned down in front of BAYAN headquarters last September. At 47, Mrs Uy is 20 years older than Lean Alejandro. She is also not as well-known—or controversial—as the late progressive youth leader.

But this doesn't bother her. A professor of sociology and anthropology at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, Mrs. Uy has been teaching since she was 18.

"I taught nothing but Sociology. Ang dami-dami ko nang naturo tungko sa change [I taught a lot about change]. But nothing happened," she recalls. "Then I saw the missing component and that is praxis: to be really active, to be right there where the action is."

It was only when she tried out the role of student, rather than instructor, that Mrs. Uy found a new meaning in her being a teacher. Ironically, her education came, not from distinguished members of academe, but from the young men and women to whom she had lectured so much about society and how to change it.

"My students then were also very active in the student movement. This was right after the First Quarter Storm. Some of them came to see me after class telling me that, while they appreciate my attempts at presenting social change in the Philippines, there are new approaches

which might be considered. That was how I got to understand the neo-colonial and semi-feudal nature of Philippine society. I owe it to my students."

Soon Mrs. Uy was joining and speaking before peasant, worker and youth demonstrations. The streets had become a classroom in which she herself was a student. When BAYAN was formed in 1985, she became chairperson of the Cebu chapter.

As BAYAN-Cebu chair, she realized that trying to change society was more dangerous than simply talking about it in the classroom. She and her family were constantly harassed by the military and vigilantes. Posters in different parts of Cebu City called her a Communist, with cracks like: "Zeny Uy, bumalik ka na sa Tsina!" [Zeny Uy, go back to China]

Still, she accepted the post of secretary-general of one of the most controversial organizations in the country, expanding her classroom further to include, not just the little island of Cebu, but the 7,000 in the archipelago. It was, she says, a natural decision for her to make.

She recalls what Fr. Rudy Romano, another Cebuano who took the "road less traveled by"—and paid a dear price for it—once told her, "If we are crossing a river, we have already crossed 40 percent of the river."

"There is no turning back," Zeny Uy affirms, "or I might get carried away by the heavy current."

BAYAN suffered a loss in the death of Lean Alejandro last year. Also, BAYAN seems to have less impact today. Can you comment on these developments?

There is no denying that there has been a synchronized attack, a spate of killings against BAYAN leaders. But despite these assaults, BAYAN has never been deterred from continuing its struggle to educate, to inform and to rally the people towards achieving the much-needed nationalist and democratic change in Philippine society. Yes, it's true there have been losses in terms of leaders. We lost Rolando Olalia, our first president. We lost Lean Alejandro, our secretary-general. We have also lost BAYAN leaders in the regions. But the struggle to change Philippine society, to make it more humane and more progressive continues. It is common knowledge that BAYAN does not rely only on individual leaders. The sectors, the regions, the territories and the islands have their own dynamism.

In what form do these physical assaults take?

They are against leaders and organizations themselves. This has become more pronounced under the Aquino government because of the concerted effort from the vigilantes and the military.

How effective are the vigilantes?

To a certain extent, it really succeeded in sowing fear and terror as shown in the litany of killings reported and documented. We see the break up of communities and families. For instance, in one big typical Filipino family, one brother may be a leader of the farmers organization and another brother may be a member of the Alsa Masa, or the KADDRE [Katipunan ng mga Dating Rebelde at Detenido—Association of Former Rebels and Detainees] There is also the dissolution of communities shown in the phenomena of mass evacuations. This is pathetic and very alarming.

Can you cite specific cases of these kinds of incidents?

In Cebu, for instance, one of the best organized urban poor communities is Alaska, Mambaling. It was even featured in a United Nations newspaper because it was known for its determination to fight for the land they have been occupying for so many years. But then the concerted attacks by the military and the tadtad [chop chop] on the area, most of the original settlers have left. This is very sad because the President herself motivated the populace to organize at all levels. Yet, you see attacks on organized communities, in the guise of anti-communism and counter-insurgency.

How effective are campaigns to whip up an anti-communist hysteria in the country?

Some of our organizations were greatly affected, especially when they see their leaders killed or when they just disappear. But approaches using anti-communist hysteria are bound to self-destruct. People will begin to realize that the thrust of the anti-communist groups do not have concrete basis. For instance, to attack an area, or liquidate families, or to kill a specific person simply because they or he belongs to an organized group and therefore are sympathizers of the Communists—this practice eventually becomes unpopular. People begin to see that there is no basis for killing people this way. Their problems are not solved. They realize that they still wallow in poverty. In so far as the farmers are concerned, they still don't own the land they're tilling. The workers still don't receive a family wage. At the start, using anti-communism may work. But in due time people will be able to distinguish between concrete understandable problems versus something that is hypothetical. The anti-communist approach is used as an instrument, not only to discourage people from joining organizations, but to stop people's organizations. This may work for a few months because of the element of fear and terror. But not for long. Issues will become clearer and people will realize what it really is.

It has been affirmed that the popularity of President Corazon Aquino is waning. But the cause-oriented movement like BAYAN seem also unable to draw people in. Many people, apparently, would rather stay unaligned. Thus, some sort of apathy has set in. What can you say about this?

To a certain extent, this is true. But this can be explained. After so many years of Marcos rule, anyone who replaced him would be very popular. There is no doubt about that. But then popularity, especially if it has no basis that is beneficial to the people, eventually wanes just like what is happening now. Another factor would be the fact that BAYAN itself did not have a very clear analysis of the new dispensation when it first took over. There was a feeling of giving the new government the benefit of the doubt, although we knew that there are structural and systemic basis for the whole social order. But we did not pinpoint at once the true nature of the government. If you recall, BAYAN's position was critical support. But now, during the last National Council meeting, there is the consensus that we should have been more articulate in describing the whole social structure. We missed that part. We got carried away by critically supporting the government. Now, the nature of the government is very clear to us. We consider it a great responsibility to reveal this to our people.

Are you saying that BAYAN should have taken an oppositionist stance right after the takeover of Mrs. Aquino?

Well, the dynamics then was of course different. The picture was definitely not that clear. But we have to be always reminded of the reality of the social structure wherein the landed few dominate the majority who are propertyless. So if there was a mistake, I think it would be more along these lines. There was, of course, a concerted effort to ease out BAYAN from the mainstream of Philippine politics. The position of BAYAN, its program of action, its alternative vision of a new society, threaten those who benefit from the existing social order. Of course, they would not want this alternative to be popularized and be understood by the populace. That's why they are moving heaven and earth to stop BAYAN. They even want to push us underground. There is also the view that BAYAN was not sincere or serious about really critically supporting the Aquino government.

Well, I'd like to state first that from the very beginning, BAYAN always meant what it said. We were serious about critical support. During the drafting of the new Constitution, we presented a nationalist agenda. During the peace talks, we also helped in propagating a sincere appreciation of the agenda for peace. But we found no sincere effort on the part of government to consider the nationalist and democratic agenda. But in so far as pushing for that, it was an all-out effort to present the basic ills of society and why these are perpetrated. Even the peasant sector did its part. They sought dialogues with the President. But she somehow did not have time for the farmers.

So, what others say is not true. We always mean what we say. The best sons and daughters of our sectors have really gone to the extent of sacrificing even their own

lives, because these efforts of changing and transforming Philippine society will be inherited by our children and their children. So why should we not be sincere about it.

With the growth in strength of the Right and the cynicism that has set in among many of our people, could this not be a very good atmosphere for a fascist resurgence? Could not a skeptical population disillusioned with both the President and the cause-oriented movement become more attracted to authoritarian rule something like what happened under Marcos or in Germany under Hitler or Italy under Mussolini?

Well, the conditions during the Marcos period and the conditions now are different. There is no denying the fact that the nationalist blocs has grown in terms of number. These are qualitative improvements. While it is true that perhaps the average person in the street could easily be swayed to the Right, there's no denying the fact that we have had a qualitative change in the perspective, in the world view, among the people. Given the opportunity to make accurate and scientific information open to them, I think the people will eventually distinguish between what is real and concrete and what is hypothetical. Of course, the problem we have is not that our efforts to disseminate these information do not reach the average person. There is even a concerted effort against us in this. For instance, in a press conference, what came out in the newspaper was a complete distortion of what we said.

So couldn't this control of media by certain groups be used to develop the Rightist point of view?

Yes, precisely. But on the level of the people's experiences, they see the chasm between what they read and what they go through. Like they keep on hearing about peace, human rights, justice and a better life but then they experience the contrary. So they are presented by two opposite pictures and the people will eventually know which one is true. On the other side of course, we also see the efforts of foreign powers. CIA money is practically flowing in to further confuse the people. But we also have aggressive education campaigns to block these deceptions. If we cannot do this through conventional media, then we will have to do it through the alternative press. We may have to start with neighborhood dialogues, then expand it further. Those who are serious of filling the need to really inform the people about the essential features of the government will find a way of carrying this out. So the fear that you mentioned may not be that real. There is even a growing awareness of civil liberties among the middle forces. The National Movement for Civil Liberties was recently formed. Besides, the consolidation of this government has not been completed. The last stage was supposed to be the local elections. But even then, a number of the administration candidates did not have landslide victories or even lost. Then this government also exposed part of its color by embracing even the

warlords of the last regime. The people will reject the repetition of the same setup under Marcos. So they themselves will not allow that to happen. We must have faith in our people.

You have spoken about the need to reach out and educate the people. But many find the forms and methods you use as either too blunt or too vague for the ordinary citizens to understand. For instance, the formulation "U.S.-Aquino Regime" could hardly be understood by anybody who sees it on the streamers and posters of a BAYAN rally.

Yes, we accept that criticism. We recognize the need for new styles of work. Suggestions are pouring in. The usual marches like the weekly demonstrations under Marcos may no longer be possible or even effective now. Adjustments have to be made. We are in the process of doing that. Mass actions will be highly selective. There will be new forms. The emphasis now is on education and information. Before, we focused on mass actions. But now we are going back to the basics that means zeroing in on our analysis of Philippine society and our alternative vision. These were secondary at the height of the Marcos dictatorship because we concentrated on mass actions.

The average person should not see just two opposite poles. It should not be a choice between the Aquino government and the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA. No. We have to reemphasize the position of BAYAN which seeks to achieve change through a non-armed struggle. It's also a question of method. If you speak of the CPP-NPA, for example, their method is clear. But there has been less appreciation of BAYAN's methodology.

What new forms have been considered?

Well, we have been conducting intensive seminars on various issues like the U.S. Bases and the Value Added Tax. We hope to get feedback on how these issues can be popularized. There have also been suggestions of dramatic approaches in making the Bases issue easily understood. Pamphlets, comics, etc.

We have to make BAYAN's position clear. The Right is trying to project BAYAN as simply an organization out there to oppose the government without presenting an alternative. So we will try to counter this. We will present our analysis of Philippine society and also our alternative vision. We will also make it clear that our method is non-armed with people's organizations as the core of this movement for change. We emphasize that through concerted people's effort, Philippine society can be changed.

The initial feedbacks have been very heart-warming. We had regional councils activated in different regions. This is an indication that there is a greater understanding about our position.

How big is BAYAN now?

As I said, some of our chapters had been dormant or inactive. But there has not been a single case of withdrawal. We even had the formal and official affiliation of nationwide organizations like the Alliance of Concerned Teachers and GABRIELA [General Assembly Binding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership, and Action]. You see, in the past two years, these two groups were with us but not officially. This year, they formalized their membership.

In some regions, there has been a marked decrease in numerical expression of the organization. But the structure is there although this may not be seen in open mass actions. But we expect to grow in number this year.

How do you plan to counter physical assaults against your ranks?

Well, one is not to make it easy for hostile elements to kill our members. (Laughs.) In case of illegal arrests, then we report these immediately. Of course there have been cases of kidnapings or salvagings. Wala kaming magawa pag nangyari iyon [There is nothing we can do if that happens]. Like Fr. Rudy Romano. There have been no news about him now. But in general, we try to keep ourselves safe but still continue working. Some sectors have put up their own defense units. But that is their own initiative.

You replaced Lean Alejandro as secretary-general of BAYAN. That position seems to be the most sensitive, even vulnerable, in the cause-oriented movement.

Yes, they seem to be getting the secretaries-general all over.

Have you experienced any threats to your life?

Well, even before assuming this position, I was already being threatened as BATAN chairperson for Cebu. My house was raided twice. That was a traumatic experience for my children. That was in June 23 and August 28, during the coup, last year. While the coup was going on, a combined military-vigilante group in 11 vehicles went to my house. Up to now, there are surveillance teams watching me and my family. Threats are aired over the radio. I have not experienced any threats in Manila. Maybe it's because they don't know me. I just try to make it difficult for them to follow me. When I go to my office at the University of San Carlos, I do not loiter around the campus. That makes it difficult for them to follow me. I don't think they would try to take me in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. I don't think they would dare do that.

I teach Sociology and Anthropology for undergraduate and graduate school.

Will you be moving here or will you still be based in Cebu?

I still have to finish my school term up to March. Then I will probably go on leave so I can render full service to BAYAN. You see after teaching Sociology all these years, lecturing on social change, Philippine society, etc, one reaches a point in one's lifetime when a decision must be made. All these theories and approaches to social change must somehow find expression in actual life. So I intend to be an actual participant just like what I had been doing in the past, but this time on a national scale. This for me is challenging and self-fulfilling, although, I know it is also very risky.

How did you get involved in political movements?

I once watched a play entitled "Higaang Marmol" "Marble Bed" shown here at UP [University of the Philippines]. I was attending a convention then on "The Poverty of Sociology and the Sociology of Poverty." It was a vivid portrayal of urban poverty wherein they showed people living in cemeteries. This was contrasted with the lifestyle of a few. That really disturbed me. When my students suggested new approaches to understanding Philippine society, a dynamic dialogue started. That led me to more serious study. I was exposed to more readings and more discussions. What happened to me was like throwing a stone into a pool and creating ripples. It was just one play that disturbed me and eventually led to a series of discoveries. Social change can never be done in the classroom. You have to go through a process.

How has this involvement affected your family life?

Practically my whole family are involved, not just to watch me make speeches, but also to join the farmers and workers as they march, as they eat and live. I started teaching when I was only 18. I taught nothing but Sociology. Now I am teaching a course on Social Order. Ang dami-dami ko nang naturo tungkol sa change. [I have taught so much about change.] But nothing happened. (Laughs.) Then I saw the missing component and that is praxis: to be really active, to be right there where the action is.

I have six children. I am, of course, concerned for them. These assaults on BAYAN leaders is not just directed against the leaders but also the family members. But in our family, we discuss these things. My children ask me, "What did you mean about that statement in that rally? What was that all about?" The discussions take place right at the heart of our home. So they are also part of my commitment. They also find the need to join groups and participate in activities. They are also afraid of the consequences. But they know it has to be done.

Experience has also taught my children the meaning of fascism. It's not theoretical to them. My five-year-old kid saw how the military barged into our house, destroyed the main door, shouted at us. My second son told the

soldiers. "Identify yourselves. That's what the law says." They saw how their father was beaten up and their mother was inhumanely treated.

During a rally right after the abduction of Fr Romano, there was this student who was being pulled by military and policemen. They were holding his feet and arms, dragging him away from the other rallyists. I was then with the negotiating panel. When I saw this I rushed to the aid of that student. I embraced him so the military could not take him into the military camp. When I saw his face, I found out that the student was my own son. I started biting the legs of the military men so they would let him go. We got free and the other members of the negotiating panel came to help us and prevented the military from taking us.

I do not try to ram my beliefs and commitment down the throats of my children. They in their own time and dynamics learn about it. I just provide materials and if they are interested they read them. I don't force them to read or accept my beliefs. But I make them feel that I am open to discuss with them on anything. From my own experience, a commitment doesn't become meaningful unless I appreciated a cause on my own.

Until now our front door is broken. My son asked me, "What have you done that they treat you this way?" It's very traumatic for my children. They grow up in a house and all of a sudden they have to leave it because it is no longer safe to stay there. Even the children take turns looking out the window to find out if there are suspicious persons outside. My five-year-old boy would just report, "There are four people behind the mango tree. They are carrying something." He gets scared and cannot sleep.

Are you not yourself afraid?

I know there are risks. But I think I told you the first time we met that life is, after all, a series of risk-taking. Once you step out of your house, you are already exposed to danger. Knowing that, I have decided to take the most meaningful risk: to serve the people, not just in theory and in the classrooms, but in actually being part of a nationwide people's movement.

'Majority' of Guerrillas 'Planning To Resign'
HK171003 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Here is a report from PFCB [Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters] Bacolod by Lando Paro:

[Begin recording in English] Majority of rebels planning to resign. Sixty percent of the members of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and New People's Army are considered moderates and are already planning to resign.

Artefice, alias Commander Harris, was a finance officer of the New People's Army near North area covering Talisay, (P.D. Magalona), Victoria, and part of Panaplan, Silay. He was also a member of the security force of the once highest-ranking leader of the New People's Army, Nemesio Dimafiles, with whom he was captured last week. Artefice was recruited into the movement by a certain alias Bunny of Hacienda Carmen Dedares, Barangay Granada, Bacolod in December 1982.

In his disclosures to the police, he claimed that there is a training ground for [word indistinct] militia men in Sitio Manabes, Barangay Kagsadumon, (P.D. Magalona), plus the ranch of Negros Occidental Governor Daniel Lacson, Jr. The ranch in (Mohorcia) is a training ground for a district guerrilla unit and unit militia with a big ranch house as the training center, he said. Lacson was out of town yesterday afternoon and could not be reached for comment.

Artefice also disclosed that more liquidations of military and police personnel in Bacolod City are done by the Regional Partisan Party Committee, code-named NICA, to the combat team, code-named NBI. Most of the revelations of Artefice, the police report said, tie up with that of other communist terrorists captured earlier. The police also revealed the CPP-NPA camps and training grounds are located in Sitio Tomas, Barangay Kabin-dangan, Dipalay, with fully armed men led by Ka [Comrade] Jonathan at Barangay Karabalan, Himamaylan, and the central headquarters of District 1 under Silvino Gallardo, alias Commander Macao or Ben, is situated along the boundary of Illog and Kabangkalan at the foot of Mount Pamari.

Dimafiles, in another police report, revealed that in the plenum in 1982, [word indistinct] rebel leaders who were identified as Veronica Liling Parco, Frederico Predic Guanzon, Silvino Macao Gallardo, Victoria Ibia Justiniani, Rufina Liling Hinlaga, Francisco Fernandez, Vicente Pellobello, Soliven Espina, and Ernesto Kabales. Most of the executive committee members expressed dissatisfaction over what they felt was his lenient policy in dealing with military informers and underworld characters, his nonviolent policy, and his opposition to the progressive taxation and the low intensity campaign against the military and police. Dimafiles said he was against the policy of the national CPP and the NPA to escalate hostilities from the countryside to the urban areas. In an all-out war, the civilians are not yet ready to accept the revolutionary concept, Dimafiles explained. Dimafiles told the police that during the cease-fire period, he accompanied Vicente Pellobello, the police-turned-revolutionary, to Manila to speak over Radio Veritas.

In Manila, Jose de los Santos Zamora offered to make a movie out of his life story, but he refused, he said. He also revealed that during the first years of the revolutionary movement under Jose Maria Sison, they obeyed the

[word indistinct] nationals' directives blindly and without question even if some ran counter to their own concepts. In the eighties, however, moderates in the rank and file have reached the limits of their tolerance and have begun to ponder their concepts, he said.

At the press conference in the police headquarters Tuesday afternoon, Lieutenant Colonel Nicolas Torres, Bacolod police chief, said no charges have been filed yet against Dimafiles and Artefice, and that he was still trying to find out about previous charges against them. Meanwhile, the only possible charge he can file is illegal possession of a firearm, since a gun was found in the balcony's roof when he was arrested, Torres said, adding that he will have to refer the matter to Colonel Vigil Coronel, Negros Occidental provincial commander.

Joel Dorillo, counsel of the captured rebel leaders, said it is all right for them be detained, even without charges, considering that they are being treated well.

At the same press conference, Torres said, the police are gaining ground in their fight against the communists and revealed that since the capture of the two leaders, they have received the feelers from their followers indicating their desire to surrender. The police chief said he would welcome their return to the fold of the law and assure that they would be treated justly, like their two leaders. We do not want to shoot our fellow Filipinos, Torres added. [end recording]

Conflicting NPA Forces Figures Cited
HK170701 Manila *THE MANILA CHRONICLE*
in English 17 Mar 88 p 5

[By Rene Pastor of Associated Editors]

[Text] What is the real strength of the New People's Army?

The question has cropped up as both military and political leaders attempt to analyze the communist insurgency problem and draw up plans to solve it.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa has estimated the strength of NPA regulars at 25,000, up from 23,000 in 1986 and 24,000 in 1987. The number of armed NPA regulars is pegged at 15,000 from an original estimate of 12,000.

But a recently leaked military intelligence report given to Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos contradicts the grim assessment of a growing insurgency. The report claims the number of NPA guerrillas dropped 12 percent in 1987 from an estimated 24,430 to 21,520.

It also projects NPA strength declining sharply over a five-year period to 19,369 in 1988; 17,432 in 1989; 15,688 in 1990; 14,119 in 1991; and 12,710 by the time Mrs. Aquino's term ends in 1992.

The report says firm Government support for soldiers in the counterinsurgency war and economic and political reforms are causing the "downward shift in NPA membership."

"If this trend persists, this will result in the depletion of guerrilla fronts and possibly in the eventual collapse of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] organization in the affected areas," the report adds.

It warns, however, that the drop in NPA strength will force "the party's expected shift toward a military approach. An increasing trend in violent incidents is foreseen until 1992. The accelerated rate of Sparrow operations will be sustained...to continuously project a position of strength and discourage demoralized members from abandoning the revolutionary cause."

The national intelligence estimate differs slightly from that of the defense establishment, which claims that the insurgency is growing worse, not better.

Members of Congress who are often briefed by military leaders on the security situation are themselves divided over the issue.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, the defense committee chairman, says, "There is no question it has increased," adding that his own estimate of "armed NPAs is 18,000," higher than the military figure of 15,000. Maceda concedes that estimates of NPA strength, even by the military, are not accurate, because they are all based on educated guess-work.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel disputes the higher estimate, saying the reports he is getting "are that it (the number of NPAs) has gone down."

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile places the NPA's strength at "between 25,000 and 30,000."

"Never in the history of insurgency in this country has it reached a level where the battlefield has been brought to the center of power. I will tell you, we are surrounded and they have contingents inside the city," he told the American Chamber of Commerce recently.

Former NPA Commander Bernabe Buscayno kept repeating in several interviews before the threat of Right-wing death squads drove him into silence that "NPA recruitment, except in heavily militarized areas, has gone down."

"Mas kaunti ang umaakyat ngayon [there are fewer recruits now]," he says.

Sen. Rene Saguisag thinks the military is bloating the figures to "preserve its influence" over the Government through the persistent threat of a communist bogey. The problem, he says, is that "nobody really knows" how

many NPA guerrillas there are except probably the rebels themselves and they will be the last ones to concede the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is winning.

"I do not accept (the military's) figures," says Sen. Wigberto Tanada. "I tend to agree with Rene's assessment. Ang tingin ko lumit. [I think the figure is going down.] There has been no increase."

The report goes on to foresee that NPA influence over "affected barangays (will) slowly decline...because of increasing delivery of Government services, and just plain Government presence."

This will force communist fund-raisers abroad, through Jose Maria Sison and Luis Jalandoni, "to seek support from the USSR. The support is expected via North Korea and Vietnam, but not heavy enough to compromise Gorbachev's psychological operations" against the U.S. negotiating for continued use of its two facilities here, said the report.

Since the military, the political leadership and the NPA have their own reasons for coming up with their versions of rebel figures, it is open season where the real numbers will be coming from.

Several Killed in Sultan Kudarat Clashes
HK171143 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Five people were reported killed and two others wounded in encounters between the CHDF and NPA in Sitio Magulong, Malavilla, Dusayan, Sultan Kudarat yesterday morning.

The fatalities were identified as Balthazar Bucapino, Romeo Guillermo, Medel Lucero, Pingson Bilinario, and one civilian named Augustin Guillermo. The victims were all CHDF members.

According to Captain Bongao, commanding officer of the 456th PC Company, the NPA took Balthazar Bucapino of Barrio Cinco, Kurunadal as bait to lure a certain Yip-yip, but the former refused and was shot by the NPA. The NPA then took his body to Sitio Magulong.

In a related incident, CHDF members were ambushed while carrying out monitoring activities. Three members and one civilian died on the spot, while two others were wounded. The victims' firearms were seized by the NPA.

In another development, some 100 fully-armed NPA members led by Commander Tibit killed one scout ranger; four NPA members were reported wounded in the incident.

The 3d Infantry Battalion headed by Battalion Commander Lieutenant Apungan launched a counterattack. It was later learned that the NPA group was armed with two M-16 machineguns [as heard] and other high-powered arms.

Leyte Drive Against Insurgents Called 'Success'
HK170347 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Text] The counterinsurgency campaign in Leyte has proven to be a success, with less barangays now under the control or influence of the NPA. This was the assessment made by Regional Unified Command 8 chief General Lorenzo Mateo whose promotion to 1-star rank was approved by the Commission on Appointments yesterday [16 March]. Mateo told reporters that the success of the anti-insurgency drive was due to the combined efforts of the military and the people.

[Begin recording] In our counterinsurgency in Leyte, I should say that we are gaining ground there because we have reduced the number of NPA-controlled barangays, by about 49 barangays as of the time I assumed this post. And this is attributed to the formation and organization of the vigilantes, because I encouraged the people to organize themselves against these NPA's and other rebellious elements. [end recording]

Military on Alert for MNLF Attacks
BK171117 Quezon City RPN 9 Television in English
1030 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] The Army's Tabac Division chief, General Buenaventura Tabo, today warned that he would arrest anyone flying or unfolding a flag other than the Philippine tri-colors. Tabo issued the warning in the wake of rumors that MNLF elements would fly their red flag during its anniversary celebrations tomorrow. Tabo also warned secessionist rebels not to commit any atrocities or terrorism during tomorrow's anniversary celebrations.

Here, in Manila, Muslim Federal Party President Abdul Khayr Alonto and several other Muslim leaders today held a news conference to express their support for the MNLF's bid to gain full membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC]. Alonto said a declaration of the Moro people's collective support for the MNLF would be submitted to the OIC secretary general.

[Begin Alonto recording] On behalf of the Muslim community, the Muslim Federal Party, and our friends, I give support to the MNLF for its elevation from that of an observer to a regular member of the Organization of Islamic Conference with the belief that the membership of the MNLF in the OIC [words indistinct] the MNLF under the leadership of Brother Nur Misuari is a recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of the Bangsa Moro [Moro Nation] people of which our friends and

sympathizers understand. This is a human endeavor to free ourselves from that decadence, from that oppression that have been imposed on our society the last decade. [end recording]

Coincides With Solar Eclipse

HK171125 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] In General Santos City, the military has been placed on a 24-hour red alert, starting now. This is to ensure the safety of tourists from abroad and other parts of the country who will be viewing the solar eclipse tomorrow.

Thousands of tourists, astronomers, and scientists are going to Mindanao to view the eclipse, which will last for 3 minutes and 22 seconds.

Colonel Orlando Soriano, chief of the 1st Infantry Brigade and chairman of the solar eclipse committee on peace and order, said that they will monitor the peace situation, especially in places near the coast.

However, Otto Salem of the MNLF Setara Kutawato revolutionary committee said they will not launch violent actions.

Ramos Expects No Trouble

HK170923 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0900 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos assures people who plan to observe the solar eclipse in Mindanao tomorrow that they can expect no trouble even though the day coincides with the 13th anniversary of the Moro National Liberation Front, or MNLF.

Ramos made the assurance based on personal guarantees given to him by MNLF spokesman Datu Ibrahim Uy. According to Ramos, Uy personally assured him that Nur Misuari's MNLF would seek a peaceful settlement of the Mindanao question and that it would not resort to violence.

House Criticizes Muslim Commission Nominees

HK171009 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 17 Mar 88 p 2

[By staff writer Rowena Bundang]

[Text] The House committee on Muslim affairs criticized the government yesterday for its alleged "half-baked" selection of nominees in the 50-member Regional Consultative Commission [RCC].

The committee hurled the tirade in a hearing after invited representatives of the Moro National Liberation Front Reformist Group, Moro Islamic Liberation Front,

and the Bangsa Moro [Moro Nation] Islamic Party claimed that the peace commission has made "no attempt" to consult with them in the nomination of RCC members.

Rep. Oscar Orbos (LP, Pangasinan), a committee member, said the peace commission should have allowed the Muslim group to nominate RCC members.

"If there was no consultation made with these concerned movement groups, how can we be assured that the RCC will not be a lapdog of the President?" Orbos asked.

Orbos's view was supported by Rep. Guimid Matalam (PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan—Strength of the Nation], Maguindanao), committee chairman. He said the Muslim groups' allegation contradicted the claim of Peace Commissioner Alfredo Bengzon earlier that the commission had consulted with them on the RCC.

Bengzon was not available for comment as he failed to attend the committee hearing. His absence, the committee said, was "very unfortunate," considering that the committee was able to gather other representatives from important Muslim groups who have a "good grasp" of the autonomy issue.

During the hearing, lawyer Macabanton Abbas of the MNLF reformist said his group was not invited by the peace commission to nominate the RCC members. In fact, he said, nobody from his group was included in the list of nominees submitted to Congress for consultation.

"We were supposed to nominate but we were not invited to participate. Nobody then can blame that we are not being represented in the RCC," Abbas said.

President Aquino had earlier submitted to Congress the names of 50 nominees to the RCC for confirmation. She said it was not the Muslim but the MNLF which opposes her appointments.

The President said the appointments cannot be delayed because Congress has to come up with an organic act on Muslim autonomy by December this year in accordance with the 1987 Constitution.

Abbas and MNLF legal adviser Linang Ali maintained their group's position opposing the creation of RCC's which they said is a violation of the Tripoli Agreement.

They batted for the resumption of peace negotiations between President Aquino and the MNLF. Abbas said the creation of RCCs is a unilateral move of the government as it failed to consult with different Muslim factions.

32 Nominations Endorsed

HK171305 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] The nominations of 32 members of the Mindanao Regional Consultative Commission [RCC] have been endorsed for confirmation. The committee on constitutional officers of the Commission on Appointments met this afternoon and reviewed the nominations of 20 commissioners-at-large and 12 district commissioners. Their nominations will be endorsed at the next session of the Commission on Appointments on 23 March.

Earlier, the Commission on Appointments confirmed the nominations of nine RCC commissioners.

Foreign Secretary Assesses MNLF Actions

HK170717 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 17 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday said the Moro National Liberation Front's reported plan to create its own Regional Consultative Commission [RCC] shows that it is "worried" about the positive effects of Government's RCCs.

This developed even as the MNLF, through its spokesman Ustad Zain Jali, called for the resumption of peace talks and gave its assurance that Muslim separatist forces would not strike on March 18, as they had earlier threatened.

This same date, in fact, was suggested as the start of the new round of peace talks. Mr Jali, who was reportedly acting upon instructions of rebel leader Nur Misuari, warned that if no dialogue takes place by March 22, the MNLF would set up a government-in-exile.

Sec Manglapus said action on this matter would be up to Peace Commission chief Alan Bengzon.

Meanwhile, he disclosed that the MNLF still has not filed its formal application for full membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC]. The OIC meets next week in Amman, Jordan.

MNLF Urges Islamic Body To Oversee Talks

HK170713 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 17 (AFP)—Moslem separatist leader Nur Misuari wants any new peace talks with the Philippine government to be held under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), a spokesman said here Thursday.

Mr. Misuari, who is chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), set this and two other conditions for further peace talks with Manila, MNLF spokesman Ustad Zain Jali said.

Mr. Jali said that Mr. Misuari had told aides of his conditions in a telephone call Wednesday from Amman, site of an OIC meeting next week.

President Corazon Aquino said earlier Wednesday that she was prepared to reopen talks on a settlement with the MNLF if she received a formal request and a proposed agenda from Mr. Misuari. The talks collapsed in mid-1987.

Mr. Jali said Mr. Misuari had told him that he would not file a request as it would mean "surrender," and that his second condition was that Manila implement a 1976 agreement granting political autonomy to 13 Moslem-populated provinces in the south.

Mr. Misuari also said that Mrs. Aquino must "show sincerity" in wanting to reopen the talks, but gave no further details on the third condition.

Mrs. Aquino flew to Mr. Misuari's stronghold on Jolo island in September 1986 to forge a ceasefire which remains in effect despite a war of words between Manila and the MNLF over the latter's bid to become an OIC member.

If granted, this would give the MNLF, estimated by the military to have 20,000 guerillas, the same status as the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Islamic world and entitle it to more aid from the OIC's 46 members.

Mr. Misuari said the MNLF membership bid had "gained ground everywhere" after Mrs. Aquino created a 50-member council last week that will draft a law granting limited autonomy to Moslem-populated provinces, Mr. Jali said.

The MNLF has refused Mrs. Aquino's offer of membership in the autonomy council and warned that any Moslem who agrees to sit on it will be considered a "traitor" and ostracized by the Islamic community.

The MNLF also rejects the constitutional requirement that voters of affected provinces accept autonomy in a plebiscite. Only five of the largely Roman Catholic country's 75 provinces have Moslem majorities, officials say.

Nation Movers Chairman Said To Meet MNLF

HK170949 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Mar 88 pp 1, 6

[By Ruby Villavicencio]

[Text] A swift and constitutional move to convert the country's republican form of government into a federal form has taken off the ground with the filing of a bill in the House of Representatives seeking the shift in the government set-up.

As this developed, the Moro National Liberation Front, which has recently sought to resume peace talks with the government on Mindanao autonomy, has also started to hold dialogs with the Nation Movers—a group spearheading the move to decentralize the government.

Yesterday, one of the aides of MNLF leader Nur Misuari called on business tycoon Enrique Zobel, chairman of the Nation Movers which is composed of prominent political and business figures disenchanted with and alienated by the Aquino Administration.

Zobel said he and the Misuari aide, who was not identified, talked about federalization plans of the Nation Movers. He did not give details.

The MNLF man called on Zobel after the latter gave an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER.

According to Zobel, the federalization bill filed by Rep. Salvador Escudero (Ind. [Independent] Sorsogon) "has lit the match" to gain a congressional consensus for a change in the type of government to grant regions more power in governance and to direct their local growths.

"And we're starting the fire," Zobel added.

The existence of the Nation Movers or Unlad Bayan [National Movement for Economic Reconstruction and Survival], an alliance to set up an alternative scheme of government for the Philippines, was disclosed by Zobel March 9 during a speech before the Manila North Rotary Club.

Among the members of the group are opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Vice President Salvador Laurel, former Sen. Arturo Tolentino, and former Labor Secretary and Constitutional Commission member Blas Ople.

Whether the federalization plans of the Nation Movers have something to do with the softening up of the MNLF stance to gain an independent Muslim state, through a regular membership status with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, is not clear.

What is apparent is that autonomy for regions under the proposed federal form of government is favorable to Muslims in the South who have been calling for greater self-rule.

For federalization to take place, a snowball of support from members of Congress must be attained by the Nation Movers, whose sympathizers, however, comprise the minority in the legislative chambers.

But the Nation Movers, according to Zobel, is optimistic they could convince the majority in Congress that a federal system is better than a Manila-centered one.

Zobel said: "Which congressman or governor would object to a plan giving them more power to administer their regions and giving them more freedom in using funds for their region's development?"

"Politicians are politicians," he added.

He said that a group of 19 independent congressmen conferred with him the other night and that they "seemed agreeable to a federation."

Zobel disclosed that there are six Nation Movers committees working full-blast on position papers on various issues: federalization, agrarian reform, economic and labor policy, U.S. bases, education and cultural development, and national security.

He said he has been informed that the group's working committees intend to present to the public these position papers after 30 days. "But personally, I would give it 60 days."

Zobel, who earlier said he was personally in favor of retaining U.S. bases here, said that the group is still divided on the issue of bases.

Ople for one, has said he is for the dismantling of the American military installations here.

Zobel, however, added that the group is now leaning toward bases retention.

On agrarian reform, the Nation Movers, he said, believes that the various regions of the country should decide for themselves the shape of the agrarian reform to be implemented in their localities.

"That should solve the various contentions that so and so number of retention limits could not work in their area because the crops planted in these regions are different from those planted in other regions," he said.

Asked about the Nation Movers' reported plan to field a presidential candidate in 1992, Zobel said: "What 1992? it's going to be this year!"

He said that his group also has the backings of the majority in the business community.

However, he said, those supportive of the group do not want the President to know who they are.

He quoted them as saying that "for the first time in three years, business is good."

"These businessmen always play it safe. And that's understandable. But they have expressed their support because they want to see a blueprint for development."

Such a blueprint, he said, the government has none while the Nation Movers has.

Marcos Denies Plan To Regain Power by Force
HK151237 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT
15 Mar 88

[Text] Manila, March 15 (AFP)—Ferdinand Marcos denied Tuesday he was planning to retake the Philippine presidency by force and pledged "life, fortune and honor" to be able to return from exile to help his successor Corazon Aquino.

Mr Marcos, speaking by telephone from Hawaii, repeated previous warnings that communist insurgents were about to take power and the Philippine economy about to collapse.

"Against this rather ominous and disastrous backdrop, therefore, I would like (to say) once more publicly that I have no plans to take over the government through violent means," he said over radio station DZEC here.

The Aquino government, which accuses Mr Marcos of stealing up to 10 billion U.S. dollars from the national treasury, sent emissaries to Hawaii last month for talks with the 70-year-old former president.

Mr Marcos has said he wants to retire in the Philippines, but Mrs Aquino reiterated last month that her predecessor would not be allowed into the country for as long as it was not in the national interest.

Mr Marcos said he was "primarily interested right now only in setting up a viable alternative to solve and eradicate the twin problems of communist insurgency and economic collapse."

"I am willing, as I have always been willing, to make sacrifices and offer them at the altar of freedom and democracy—sacrifice even life, fortune, and honor itself for the continuance of sincere and peaceful negotiations for national reconciliation."

Mr Marcos, who ruled the country for 20 years, fled to Hawaii in February 1986 following a popular revolt that swept Mrs Aquino to the presidency.

Ramos Cites Conditions for Marcos' Return
HK170927 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos today commented on former president Marcos' request to return to the country.

Here is the report, by Jonathan Cristobal from the Department of National Defense:

[Begin recording] [Cristobal] Secretary of National Defense Fidel V. Ramos today said that he was in favor of former president Marcos returning to the Philippines on condition that he fulfill two prerequisites: Marcos should return the wealth which Ramos claimed the

former president stole from the country, and second, the former president should announce his recognition of and support for the Aquino administration.

Ramos made this statement before students of the Zobel-De La Salle School in Alabang, where he was invited to speak on the country's insurgency situation and on the government counterinsurgency program.

Concerning the second condition, Ramos added that Marcos should stop all his attempts to destabilize the country as proof of his genuine concern for the Filipino nation.

[Ramos in English] I am not in favor of Mr Marcos coming back. Why not? Not unless two things happen. Number one, he restores the wealth taken from our country, and secondly, [words indistinct] in serious practices his recognition and support for this government and to stop helping to destabilize it because should he continue with these activities, they would bring about pains and sufferings you, especially the young people who will be [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Thailand

Chawalit Testifies to Panel on Border Fighting
BK170115 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Mar 88 p 1

[By Chadin Thepphawan]

[Text] The settlement of 20,000 Hmong in the Ban Romklao area caused the dispute with Laos that escalated into armed conflict, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchayut said yesterday.

Testifying to the Interior Administration Committee, Gen Chawalit said the arrival of the anti-communist Hmong more than a year ago had left Laos feeling uncomfortable.

According to panel chairman Samak Suntharawet, the army chief said the arrival of the Hmong, who were used by the Central Intelligence Agency in its secret war with Laos, had caused "arguments with Vientiane and some clashes".

Gen Chawalit said some trees had to be cut to establish a volunteer self-defence village for the Hmong, but the felling was carried out on a minor scale and in accordance with the law.

Mr Samak said the logging appeared to have been a key factor that led to the fighting between Thai and Laotian troops. There had been reports of log poaching in Laos.

The army chief said he did not initially want to accept a ceasefire until a clear victory was achieved in the field. However, he said he "thought of the heart of the people" and agreed to the ceasefire because there would be far more casualties before victory could be achieved.

Gen Chawalit said he told Vientiane that Thai forces would return to the front if talks did not make ground within 15 days of the ceasefire.

During the hearing, air force officers rejected claims in leaflets purportedly written by cavalrymen that air strikes killed 200 Thai troops.

The air force representatives said 147 Thai servicemen were killed in the conflict, and that Gen Chawalit admitted there were some army casualties but the figure was "little".

Gen Chawalit said he did not at first think the ceasefire and talks would achieve much, but troop withdrawal agreements came quickly and he was bound to go to Laos.

He said he wanted to test Laotian feeling about Thailand and sent over Thai musicians. He said the Laotians did feel tied to Thailand by the welcome they gave the musicians.

The panel faulted the Foreign Ministry for not according Laos her due status. Ministry officials said they proposed a comprehensive border settlement to Laos but Vientiane wanted to talk about Ban Romklao only for the moment, and the ministry agreed.

In addition, the panel reminded the ministry of the constitutional requirement that territorial agreements with foreign countries need the approval of the House.

"All border talks, like those with Malaysia over the last 10 years, must be approved by Parliament," said Mr Samak. "If officials compromise to give and take territory without House approval, they could be jailed," he said.

Asked why Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila had not gone to Vientiane for talks, his officials said Laos was under the influence of Vietnam, and it would be improper for ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi to go.

Mr Samak said this was reasonable but suggested ACM Sitthi stress the brotherly relationship with Laos and go to Vientiane first without holding that it would be an act of acceptance to Vietnam's position in Laos.

The opposition leader said the panel was satisfied with the testimony given, including those of the Air Force, and felt the military had performed well.

Burma Log Sale Halted by Low Price Bids
BK170250 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Mar 88 p 13

[By Sam-ang Wutthisaksathit]

[Excerpt] Thai merchants have failed in bids for 8,800 tons of teakwood from Burma because their offers were much lower than the median prices set by the state-owned Timber Corporation of Burma.

Only two Thai firms submitted bids out of five which bought bid documents to compete for the deal, marking the first border trade in timber between the two countries.

Informed sources told THE NATION yesterday the sealed bids were opened in Rangoon Tuesday and rejected as too low without Burmese authorities naming the minimum price.

The two bidding firms were Thai Sawatdi Export and Import Co Ltd and Eap Huat Seng Saw Mill Co Ltd. Those failing to submit offers were TCK Co Ltd and Hong Heng Lee Co Ltd and another unknown firm.

The sources said the three did not participate in the bidding because the logs were cut 14 years ago—the main reason for the bidders to offer low prices—and they also doubted security to be provided by Burmese and Thai authorities.

The two firms spent less than an hour before the bids were opened. Thai merchants believe that only 40 per cent of the timber can be used and both ends have to be cut because they are rotting.

The timber, according to the original plan, would be divided into three lots—the first comprising 6,158 logs weighing 4,235 tons; the second with 4,572 logs, weighing 3,144 tons; and the last of 2,098 logs, weighing 1,443 tons.

The sources said it was not immediately known whether a new bidding would be called. Burmese authorities will decide whether the median price should be lowered.

One source said after the first bidding was concluded, Burma may want to sell more timber to Thai merchants who will have to invest in tree felling and log rolling themselves under protection by Burmese troops.

If the timber fetches good prices, Burmese authorities may invite bids for lumberjacking concessions by Thai firms, said the same source.

The timber was to be transported along valleys under protection by Burmese troops to Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province, where Thai authorities have made arrangements for the border transaction.

A Thai merchant said there was no risk because he had inspected the log rolling site. Traders were afraid of Thai customs officials valuing for tax assessment on invoice prices. In fact, the timber would be worth much less because it has been lying in an open space for 14 years.

When contacted, Thai customs authorities said the timber would be levied with a seven per cent import duty—the rate applied to unsawn timber.

"We have to look at the bid prices. If they are much lower than the valuation, then we will examine the conditions of timber to determine whether they have low quality," they said.

The assessed prices could be reduced. But the officials said teak timber has durability and a period of 10 years should not have any effect on the valuation. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Proposes Talks With China *BK171100 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry sent a note to its Chinese counterpart proposing that the governments of the two countries hold talks to solve the dispute on Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago. Vietnamese First Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem on 17 March 1988 handed the note to the Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun to Vietnam. The content of the note is as follows:

Through its constant policy of granting precedence to the fundamental interests of both peoples, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has continuously worked for the normalization of relations between the two countries and the restoration of the traditional friendship between the people of Vietnam and that of China, and will henceforth persevere along this line.

It is regrettable that while it still has to respond to Vietnam's goodwill, the Chinese side has recently dispatched its navy to occupy the two reefs of Chu Thap [Fiery Cross] and Chau Vien [Cuarteron] and a number of other reefs within the Vietnamese archipelago of Truong Sa and attacked unarmed Vietnamese freighters in the proximity of Sinh Ton Island of this same archipelago.

The aforesaid actions of the Chinese side not only fail to contribute to the settlement of differences but even aggravate the tension in the relations between the two countries, cause deep concern among Southeast Asian countries, and run counter to the growing trend of dialogue in the region.

Adhering to the principle of nonuse of force in the settlement of disputes between states, the Vietnamese side unwaveringly advocates talks to solve disputes

between the two countries concerning the Truong Sa Archipelago as well as their common border and the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago.

The Vietnamese side is interested by the view expressed on 24 September 1975 by former Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping during the talks held with the late General Secretary Le Duan in Beijing, whereby the two countries had raised the dispute over the two archipelagoes which can be discussed among them. In the years 1974, 1977, and 1978, the two countries repeatedly held talks regarding the border problems in land and in the Tonkin Gulf. Talks which have been temporarily suspended in March 1980 on the proposal of the Chinese side.

In the above-mentioned spirit, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam proposed that the Vietnamese and the Chinese Governments designate representatives for the holding of talks. The level, venue, and date of which shall be mutually agreed upon.

Meanwhile, the Vietnamese side proposed that both sides commit themselves not to use force to settle disputes. It is hoped that in interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Chinese side will react favorably to this constructive proposal on the part of Vietnam.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is convinced that the eventual holding of talks between Vietnam and China in order to solve the problems already mentioned conforms to the interests and aspirations of the two peoples and will be widely welcomed by regional and world opinion.

[Dated] Hanoi, 17 March 1988

News Conference on Proposal *BK171038 Hanoi International Service in English 1009 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] The head of the Press and Information Department of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry affirms Vietnam's sovereignty over Truong Sa [Spratly] and Hoang Sa [Paracel] archipelagoes.

At a regular press conference held in Hanoi on Thursday [17 March], Mr Trinh Xuan Lang pointed out that Vietnam's proposal to hold talks with China to solve the dispute on Truong Sa Archipelago, the border, and islands between the two countries shows Vietnam's attitude of restraint and goodwill and its desire to solve the differences between the two countries through dialogue. Mr Trinh Xuan Lang held that this is the way suitable for the common trend in the region and the world at present.

Also at this conference, Mr Trinh Xuan Lang expressed the hope that this good-will proposal of Vietnam will be responded positively by the Chinese side and enjoy sympathy and support from world public opinion.

PRC Agrees To Allow Rescue of Freighters
BK171044 Hanoi International Service in English
1011 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] The Chinese side has replied to the request made by the head of the Department for China of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday [16 March] concerning the rescue of the Vietnamese freighters being ablaze.

At a meeting with Vietnamese First Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem on Thursday [17 March], Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun officially informed China's stand that China accepts not to prevent Vietnamese rescue vessels rescuing the crews on board the freighters set ablaze in Sinh Ton Island of Vietnam's Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago.

Commentary on Sovereignty of Spratly Islands
BK171335 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dialogue is better than confrontation. This is not only a rule but suitable to a growing trend in the region and the rest of the world. The Soviet-American summit has led to the signing of the INF treaty which creates for mankind the possibility for nuclear arms elimination and preservation of world peace.

Most recently in Southeast Asia, the border dispute between Laos and Thailand has begun to be solved through peaceful negotiations between delegations of the two countries.

The meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk also created a possible breakthrough in the nine-year deadlock of the Kampuchea issue.

Fully aware of this, in the Sino-Vietnamese relationship, the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have always respected the fundamental interests of the two peoples and unceasingly strived for restoring the normal relations and the traditional friendship between the two peoples of Vietnam and China.

The Vietnamese Government has put forward many goodwill and constructive proposals conforming to this trend. It is regrettable that the Chinese side has not responded to Vietnam's proposals. On the contrary, in recent days, China has faked news, aggravating tension in the Sino-Vietnamese relations.

For more than a month now, Chinese naval force has been occupying the two coral reefs of Chu Thap [Fiery Cross] and Chau Vien [Cuarteron] and others belonging to the island of Truong Sa [Spratly] of Vietnam. Most seriously on 14 March, Chinese warships attacked two

Vietnamese freighters which were on routine activities in the said area. Then, Chinese warships fired at another Vietnamese freighter coming to the rescue of the attacked freighters.

China's acts not only aggravated the Sino-Vietnamese relations but also worried the public opinion in Southeast Asian countries while running counter to the growing trend for dialogue in the region.

Regarding the two archipelagoes of Hoang Sa [Paracel] and Truong Sa, Vietnam has for many times made public documents with juridical and historical grounds affirming Vietnam's sovereignty over the two archipelagoes.

In its 3 March 1988 issue, the French paper LE MONDE wrote that since the 17th century, Vietnam has won economic as well as political influence on these islands and that in particular, the authorities of the former French colony had merged into Indochina both of the two archipelagoes of Truong Sa and Hoang Sa.

It is common knowledge that border and territorial disputes between neighboring countries are often problems left by history.

Proceeding from its goodwill, the government and people of Vietnam always stand for negotiations and nonuse of force to solve disputes among countries, specifically negotiations to solve disagreements between the two countries to which the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa Archipelagoes are related.

In fact, since 1974, Vietnam and China have held a number of talks on border on the ground and the cave of Pac Po [a cave in northern Vietnam from which Ho Chi Minh once conducted operations]. These talks were suspended in March 1980 at China's request.

In the present situation, with its correct stance and consistent goodwill, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry points out in its note dated 17 March that governments of the two countries send their representatives to a negotiating table. The level of the delegations, the time and place for negotiations will be agreed upon by the two sides. Pending the talks, Vietnam proposes that the two sides pledge not to use force to settle the dispute. We take note of China's agreement not to let its warships prevent Vietnamese lifeboats from coming to the rescue of Vietnamese crew on the attacked freighters near Sinh Ton Island of Vietnam.

Vietnam's proposal not only responds to the aspirations of peoples of Vietnam and China but also other regional countries who want to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation.

Not only the Vietnamese people but also the Chinese people as well as others in Southeast Asia and progressive people the world over are waiting for China's early response to Vietnam's goodwill and proposal.

Leaders Receive PRK's Hun Sen, Delegation
*BK161448 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1108 GMT
16 Mar 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 16—The party and state delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea returned here Tuesday afternoon after attending the funeral ceremony in Hanoi of the late Vietnamese chairman Pham Hung.

The delegation was led by Hun Sen, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs.

After Pham Hung's funeral, the delegation was received by Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the State Council; Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the C.P.V. Central Committee and acting chairman of the Council of Ministers; Do Muoi, Politburo member and secretary of the CPV Central Committee; and Tran Xuan Bach, Politburo member and secretary of the CPV Central Committee.

Kampuchean ambassador to Vietnam Tep Hen was present on the occasion.

Chairman Hun Sen conveyed to the Vietnamese party, state, government and people profound condolences from the Kampuchean party, state and people over the death of Pham Hung. He praised the late Vietnamese chairman as a staunch communist, a beloved leader of the Vietnamese people, and a very close friend of the Kampuchean people, who had made great contributions to Kampuchea's revolution and to the cultivation of the Vietnam-Kampuchea special ties.

He said that the Kampuchean people pledge to do their utmost to further promote the close, all-round cooperation between the two parties and peoples, considering it a source of force to firmly defend the revolutionary gains of each country. He wished the Vietnamese people success in implementing the resolution of the 6th C.P.V. congress, particularly in the socio-economic renovation. He fully supported the Vietnamese people national construction and defence for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

President Vo Chi Cong thanked the Kampuchean party, state, and people for sending a high-level delegation to the funeral of chairman Pham Hung to share in this great loss of the Vietnamese people.

Vo Chi Cong wished the Kampuchean people new and ever greater successes in national construction and defence. He voiced Vietnam's total support for the policy of national reconciliation of Kampuchea, and welcomed the meetings between chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk in search for a peaceful solution to the Kampuchean issue.

Earlier, the Kampuchean party and state delegation had paid final homage to Chairman Pham Hung who lies in state in the Ba Dinh conference hall.

VNA Reports Hun Sen Message to Sihanouk
*BK161534 Hanoi VNA in English 1502 GMT
16 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA OANA March 16—Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea Hun Sen has sent a message to Norodom Sihanouk expressing his "readiness to meet the latter again at any time", according to S.P.K.

Hun Sen said in his message that the Kampuchean conflict can not be settled through one or two rounds of talks but both, he and Sihanouk, "should show patience and perseverance to bring the talks to fruition in order" to put a definitive end to the sufferings of the Kampuchean people". [quotation marks as received]

Hun Sen continued: "I was deeply impressed by the results of our meetings and remain optimistic.... I do understand the difficulties Samdech is facing. However, in the interests of the Kampuchean nation and of peace in the region I am convinced that both of us, Samdech and I, will surmount all difficulties to resume our talks on which we have embarked".

Paper Views U.S. Election Campaign
*BK170230 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 12 Mar 88*

[NHAN DAN 12 March commentary by Le Ba Thuyen: "The Fierce Race to the White House"]

[Text] Following primary elections and Republican and Democratic caucuses held in 20 states last "Super" Tuesday, 6 out of a total of 13 candidates dropped out, being, in practical terms, eliminated from the race to the White House. In the elephant party, they are General Haig, former NATO commander in chief and Reagan's former secretary of state, and Pierre Du Pont, a member of the wealthy Du Pont family. On 10 March, Jack Kemp, a close friend of Reagan's, also decided to quit after a series of setbacks. In the donkey party, Bruce Babbit, former governor of Arizona, has already dropped out. Paul Simon, senator from Illinois, and Gary Hart, former senator of Colorado, are considered by the U.S. media as having been eliminated although they have yet to declare their official withdrawals.

As observed by the Western media, no one is safe in this race. The prolonged battle between the incumbent U.S. Vice President Bush and Senator Dole—both top candidates for the Republican nomination—has proved this clearly. Dole's camp accused Bush of involvement in the Iranagate scandal and held that he is incapable of proving his leadership ability. Bush angrily denied these charges and made a fuss over Dole's involvement in a fishy money transaction. Having been beaten by Dole in Iowa,

Bush concentrated on attacking Dole personally to sail into victory in New Hampshire. In return, Dole accused Bush's camp of resorting to base maneuvers to twist the truth. To date, Bush's Super Tuesday victory in most of the 20 states won him two-thirds of the delegate votes needed for nomination as the official candidate of the Republican Party at its national convention to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in August 1988.

However, as noted by the U.S. media, two dark clouds are threatening Bush. One is the Irangate scandal that could flare anew if the public prosecutor, in the near future, brings charges against Vice Admiral Poindexter, Reagan's former national security adviser, and Lt Col Oliver North. This prosecution could bring to light many documents concerning Bush's involvement. The other factor is that Dole's camp, refusing to concede defeat, will try any means to launch continuous counterattacks between now and the Republican convention.

On the Democratic side, no outstanding candidates have been able to attract the voters' enthusiasm, including Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who is leading the race, and Senator Albert Gore, who made an unexpected rise during the 8 March primaries in 20 states. The contest among Dukakis, Gore, and Reverend Jesse Jackson, at the Democratic Party convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in July 1988, will be intense.

Primary elections involve fast-paced campaigning contests during which candidates use muckraking methods to bring down their rivals while trying to win the voters' support. The 1968 election law, which was introduced by the Democratic Party—at the time when the movement to oppose the war of aggression in Vietnam was peaking in the United States, increases the number of primary elections from 6 to the current 37. It prolongs the election campaign and makes it more costly, thus giving an edge to the rich or those sponsored by monopolistic forces and discouraging independent and progressive figures from becoming candidates. In this 1988 election, the candidates, who generally represent the American bourgeoisie, are campaigning with \$441 million in taxpayers' money funded by the government, not to mention their own money and the monetary contributions they receive. The total cost of the campaign may well reach billions of dollars, the highest sum ever recorded in the history of the United States.

The race to the White House is even more fierce in seven big states: New York, California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, and Michigan. From a general viewpoint, the American people remain indifferent to the current U.S. election. This is because none of the candidates, neither Republican nor Democrat, has great stature. They have no appeal to the majority of voters. No one is able to introduce a political platform that can solve the burning issues facing the United States today.

Further on Death, Funeral of Pham Hung

Leaders Acknowledge Condolences

*BK161514 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 15 Mar 88*

[Message of thanks from party and state Leaders; date not given]

[Text] The CPV Central Committee; the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers of the SRV; and the VFF Central Committee wish to thank the compatriots throughout the country and overseas Vietnamese; the parties and governments of the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia, and other fraternal and friendly countries; the heads of state and government of many countries around the world; the Vietnam Socialist Party; the Democratic Party of Vietnam; various mass groups; various cultural, artistic, and scientific and technical organizations; the press; the religious and social organizations; the central and local organs; the People's Armed Forces and People's Public Security Forces; dignitaries; the diplomatic corps; and representatives of the international organizations in Hanoi who sent letters and messages of condolences and wreaths, paid homage to, and attended the memorial service for and funeral of Comrade Pham Hung, the late chairman of Council of Ministers.

UN Mourners Noted

*BK161527 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT
16 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—The United Nations on March 14 flew its flag at half-mast at its headquarters in New York in memory of the late chairman of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam, Pham Hung.

On the same day, the Vietnamese Permanent Mission at the United Nations held a wreath-laying ceremony for the chairman. The delegation of the Communist Party of U.S.A. led by its General Secretary Gus Hall paid its last respects to Pham Hung and signed in the mourners' book. The mourners included R. Ahmed, under secretary general special representative of the U.N. secretary general in charge of humanitarian affairs in Southeast Asia; and Aly Teymour, under secretary general representative of the U.N. secretary general and chief of the U.N. protocol.

Ambassador A.N. Belonogov; head of the Soviet Permanent Mission at the United Nations; the charge d'affaires and acting head of the Lao mission at the United Nations, Alunkeo Kitthimoun; and the heads of the permanent missions of Cuba, the G.D.R., Mongolia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Albania, Romania, Angola, Afghanistan, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, India, Congo, Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, Suriname, the Federal Republic of

Germany, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Lebanon, Senegal, Benin... paid their last homage to the late chairman and signed in the mourners' book.

Sharing with the Vietnamese people's grief were representatives of the U.S.-Vietnam Friendship Association, the U.S. Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, the U.S.-Indochina Reconciliation Project, the Vietnamese Residents' Association in the United States...

On the morning of March 15, Gen. Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, first vice chairman of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers and minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces, came to the Vietnamese Embassy in Havana to pay his last respects to Chairman Pham Hung.

Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, chairman of the State Council and of the Council of Ministers, sent a wreath to the Vietnamese Embassy in Havana.

Other senior party and state leaders of Cuba and representatives of many Cuban offices, mass organizations and people also came to the embassy to express their condolences.

On March 15, Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi and other senior officials of Algeria came to the Vietnamese Embassy in Algiers to pay homage to Chairman Pham Hung and signed in the mourners' book.

A wreath-laying ceremony for Chairman Pham Hung was held at the Vietnamese Embassy in Paris on the evening of March 14.

Representatives of Vietnamese residents' associations in France attended the service.

Committee Reviews Funeral
BK161355 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Announcement by the State Funeral Committee on the state funeral for Pham Hung, late chairman of the Council of Ministers; date not given]

[Text] The state funeral for Comrade Pham Hung, the late chairman of the Council of Ministers, has been organized very solemnly and according to plan. For 3 days, from 13 to 15 March, the entire party and Army, together with our compatriots throughout the country and overseas Vietnamese, mourned the late chairman of the Council of Ministers with boundless esteem and grief. The CPV Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the VFF Central Committee solemnly organized a

wreath-laying ceremony and a memorial service for the late comrade chairman of Council of Ministers at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall and his funeral at the Mai Dich Cemetery.

A total of 182 delegations from the center and various localities and 52 delegations of the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Hanoi paid homage to, and attended the memorial service for the late chairman. Memorial services were also solemnly organized by all the provinces, cities, and special zones throughout the country. Tens of thousands of the people in the capital escorted the late chairman to his eternal resting place. Overseas Vietnamese sent messages expressing their respect and grief or visited our embassies in foreign countries to pay homage to the late chairman. The comrade party and state leaders of the socialist countries and the heads of state or government of many countries around the world, various fraternal parties, and numerous mass groups and international organizations sent messages of condolence to share the grief of our party, state, and people.

The parties and states of the Soviet Union, Laos, and Cambodia sent delegations to our country for the funeral of the late chairman.

The State Funeral Committee was extremely moved and wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the parties and states of the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia, and other fraternal and friendly countries. It wishes to thank the fraternal parties, the international organizations and their representatives in Hanoi, and the diplomatic corps, for sharing the grief of the Vietnamese party and people.

Bloc Countries To Assist in Shipbuilding
BK150811 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT
14 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14—Bulgaria, Poland, and the Soviet Union have agreed to help Vietnam develop the shipbuilding and repair industry, reports ADN [GENERAL GERMAN NEWS SERVICE].

This was reached yesterday at the end of a meeting in Varna, Bulgaria, of representatives of the four countries to discuss the execution of the agreements on economic cooperation and assistance among these countries.

Soviet Embassy Hosts Reception
BK101511 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 10—The Soviet Embassy arranged here last evening a cordial get-together with delegates to the enlarged conference of the Presidium of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association.

Present were Dang Huu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, head of the State Commission for Science and Technology, many members of the presidium of the association and representatives of its 22 chapters from various provinces and cities in the northern provinces.

Speaking on this occasion Ambassador D.I. Kachin highly appraised the diversified and practical activities of the association which, he said, have contributed to strengthening the great friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, states and peoples.

Decision on Tax Paddy Delivery Issued
*BK110715 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers recently issued a decision on the management and use of paddy collected as agricultural tax. According to this decision, from now on all local people's committees must hand over to the central government all the paddy turned in as agricultural tax to help ensure the welfare of the Armed Forces and build national reserves for use in case of natural calamities and shortages caused by the enemy. As for the portion of agricultural-tax paddy hitherto slated for village, district, and provincial budgets under the current system, from now on it must be paid in money at negotiated prices.

Each year the State Planning Commission will work together with the Finance Ministry to determine the total amount of tax to be collected by each locality, clearly pointing out the portion of agricultural-tax paddy the localities can keep to provide for the local armed forces and the portion they must deliver to the central government.

The decision also made it clear that the Finance Ministry and provincial, city, and special zone people's committees are responsible for guiding and supervising the financial sector in fully collecting the agricultural tax according to the state plan. In each crop and each year these people's committees must settle their account with the Finance Ministry regarding the amount of agricultural-tax paddy actually collected and turned over to the central government.

Party Paper Carries Commentary on 'Gold Rush'

[NHAN DAN 1 Dec commentary by Hoang Thao of the Ministry of Finance: "Halt the Practice of Leaving Work To Search for Gold"]

*WA161916 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
1 Dec 87 p 3*

We've all heard that in many localities, people are leaving their jobs to rush off in search gold. Every day, hundreds of people leave the town of Xuan Mai [Chuong My, Ha Son Binh] to go panning for gold. At the Phuc Lai and Tay Coc cooperatives [Doan Hung, Vinh Phu],

more than half the leading cadres are neglecting the tea plantations in order to concentrate on the gold rush. Similar things have happened at many other localities, such as at Kim Hy village [Na Ri, Bac Thai] and in Cam Thuy district [Thanh Hoa]. In many areas, the district authorities make these prospectors pay license fees. Certain units are bootlegging large quantities of explosives and calcium carbide to the prospectors, and blasting for gold goes on day and night. In those areas there have been many gold hold-ups and gunfights resulting in death or severe injury.

Actually, all such gold mines—whether large or small—are valuable resources and the special property of the State. Therefore, they must be closely managed and protected. The Council of Ministers should order the People's Committees of the concerned town and province to firmly halt the above gold-prospecting activity. The responsible authorities must take steps to protect places where gold has been found.

Air Vietnam Aircraft Crash Lands in Hanoi
*BK170150 Hong Kong AFP in English 0141 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi, March 16 (AFP)—An Air Vietnam aircraft crash-landed here Wednesday but witnesses at Hanoi airport said all the passengers and crew appeared to have escaped unharmed.

The Soviet-built Tupolev aircraft appeared to miss the runway with a tyre [as received] following a flight from Ho Chi Minh City and the pilot was unable to keep the plane on a straight line, an eye-witness said.

"At about 2:00 p.m. we saw firetrucks head towards the runway and firemen running towards the Air Vietnam aircraft," he said.

He added that a bus had then picked up the passengers, none of whom seemed to be hurt.

A Thai Airways aircraft coming from Bangkok had to turn away from Hanoi, passengers waiting for the plane here said.

Briefs

Kien Giang Market Control

In February, Kien Giang Province discovered and took legal action in 31 cases involving smuggling. As a result, the province recovered 20 metric tons of grain, thousands of liters of gasoline and oil, 200 kg of export shrimps, and large quantities of cloth, medicine, and cigarettes with a total value of millions of dong. In recent months, almost all cases involving smuggling and the illegal purchase of maritime products for export have been detected by the local people. [Summary] *[BK110930 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Mar 88]*

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